p 200

1896

File NO 69 - 96

G. M.

Serial 1, 12

54, 57, -60

MYSORE PALACE FIRE ON 28th FEB. 1897

File No: 69.

Notes

Bangalore,
12th April 1897.

My dear Col:Campbell,

Herewith an advance proof of the order about the Fire. The manuscript draft I personally translated and explained to Her Highness para by para and Her Highness approved of it. I have this day consulted the Resident qute unofficially about it. He thinks it very good and his only suggestion is if possible to reduce the quantity to be extracted from the Fire Committee's report. I dont quite see my way to do it, but will try. I think some paras about incendiarism &c should be added.

Please see my pencil notes in the accompanying draft order, showing how the extract had best be altered. As altered the entire subject is fully explained.
Id/ K.S.

Meanwhile I would suggest to H.H. that some acknowledgment of Col: Robertson's help would be appropriate. I have attempted an addition to para 17, but I am not quite pleased with it, though it may pass. Kindly ascertain Her Highness pleasure, if such an addition is desirable and if desirable in what terms it should be. Please try and improve my draft yourself and oblige.

Yours very sincerely,

Sd/ K. Sheshadri Iyer

Please send as early a reply as possible. Resident would like to send copies of the order to Govt of India.

Intd/ K.S.

2 —

Mysore.
16 Apl 97

My dear Dewan.

Her Highness approves of the proposed retentions & omissions in the corrected proof of the G. O. on the fire. also of the para about the Resident in which I have ventured to suggest a verbal alteration. I do not see how the fourth Order can be further advantageously

...ion today.
...I understand that
...Resident will ask you,
...he has not already done
...for information regard-
...ing the number of H.H.'s Suite
...and followers generally.

Yours very Sincerely.
(as2 Signed)

Please find enclosures of
your D.O. letter of the 12th.

abridged.

On para 20, Her Highness desires me to say that she does not understand on what grounds you would omit it, unless you disagree with the conclusions of the Committee regarding the conduct of the Controller. But if it is that you do think it expedient that the censure should be made public, Her Highness does not object to the omission of the para in question.

Her Highness would like to have a few copies of the Fire Committee's Report together with the 5 plans as also some copies of the Court order.

Her Highness desires me yesterday to inform the Resident of her intention to go to Ootacamund via Salem on the 29th of this month. I am writing

4

Mysore.

14th April 1897.

My dear Dewan,

Her Highness approves of the proposed retentions and omissions in the corrected proof of the Govt:order on the fire, also of the para about the Resident in which I have ventured to suggest a small verbal alteration. I do not see how the Govt: order can be further advantageously abridge

On para 20 Her Highness desires me to say that she does not understand on what grounds you would omit it, unless you disagree with the conclusions of the Committee regarding the Controller But if it is that you do not think it expedient that the censure should be made public,Her Highness does not object to the omission of the para in question.

Her Highness would like to have a few copies of the Fire Committee's Report together with the 5 plans- as also some copies of the Govt order.

x x x x x x x x x

Yours very sincerely,

(not Signed)

(

Memo

These papers are forwarded with Sec.y for record.

I am glad to record that Mr Ramanooja Iyengar who was deputed as Secretary to the Committee worked zealously and well and gave entire satisfaction.

19th April 1897

Chairman of the Committee

Member of Committee

This memo was communicated to Ramanooja Iyengar from the Secretariat

V. Venugopala Chetty

V. Venugopala Chetty
Vice-President
Madras Municipality
Confidential
Report
20/4/97

Correct Copy

Proceedings of the Government of Mysore.

READ :—

1. Order No. 90—94 D. C., dated, Camp Mysore, 3rd March 1897, appointing a Committee to investigate the cause of the outbreak of fire at the Palace, Mysore, on 28th February 1897, and the circumstances attending it.

2. Report of the said Committee, dated 24th March 1897, submitting the result of their investigation.

3. Dewan's Memo with Her Highness the Maharani-Regent's orders thereon, both dated, Mysore, 4th March 1897, appointing a Committee to make a complete examination of the whole of the Palace Jewels.

4. The Proceedings of the said Committee recording the result of the daily examination of the Palace Jewels from 5th March to 6th April 1897, both days inclusive.

5. Notification issued under the authority of Her Highness the Maharani-Regent, No. 501, dated, Camp Mysore, 22nd March 1897, expressing Her Highness' thanks for messages of sympathy and for help to control the fire, received from all quarters.

No. 46-111 DATED, CAMP MYSORE, 8TH APRIL 1897.

ORDER THEREON.—The fire at the Mysore Palace broke out at about 9-30 A. M. on Sunday the 28th February 1897. It was first observed in the centre of the ceiling cloth of the temporary Pandal (to be more fully described hereafter) which had been erected for the marriage celebrated at the Palace on the 19th February and following days. It spread on all sides with amazing rapidity, and within a few minutes it attacked the permanent building with which the temporary Pandal was connected on all the four sides. With the strong wind blowing at the time it was at first feared that no part of the Palace could be saved. Shortly after the spreading of the fire from the temporary Pandal to the permanent building, Her Highness the Maharani-Regent with His Highness the Maharaja and all members of the family removed to the Summer Palace, whither was conveyed also the whole of the Palace Jewels. Large numbers of people of all classes, both official and non-official, collected on the spot in a very short time, and they, with the Palace employees and parties of the local Barr and Police forces and gangs of convicts, all made great exertions both to put out the fire and to save the property. By 1 P. M. the whole of the property which could be saved was removed from reach of the conflagration, but it was not till about 6 P. M. that the fire was brought under some control or hopes began to be entertained of preventing its spread to the unattacked portions of the Palace. Throughout the night, vigorous efforts were made to disconnect the main building from the burning mass in the centre, and about 1 A. M., valuable assistance was received from the detachment of Sappers and Miners who arrived by special train from Bangalore with two fire-engines. The work of disconnection had to be continued without intermission on the three following days before complete safety for the remaining buildings could be established. The fallen mass continued to smoulder for several days afterwards.

2. On the 3rd March 1897, the Government appointed a Committee, composed of the Officers named in the margin, to investigate the cause of the outbreak of the fire and the circumstances attending it. This Committee has made a very careful enquiry and has submitted a complete report of the result. It has arrived at the conclusion that the fire was caused by an accident, and that it attacked the temporary Pandal from above. The materials and the reasoning on which this opinion is based, are contained in the following paragraphs of the Committee's report :—

Members.
1. Mr. P. N. Krishna Murti, Member of State Council, Chairman.
2. Col. C. Bowen, R. E., Chief Engineer.
3. Mr. S. M. Fraser, Tutor and Governor to H. H. the Maharaja (with the Resident's consent).
4. Dalvye Mr. Devaraj Urs.

"The question next arises—"Was the fire communicated to the ceiling of the pandal from the Savari Totti, below, or from the outside above?"

"To this also the positive answer can be given, that the fire must have originated above, for the following reason, *viz*:—

"Not one of the many witnesses who were present in the Savari Totti mentions seeing any of the decorations below in flames. And, while it was only by climbing up the festoons between the pillars that fire could have reached the ceiling from below, the improbability of it originating in the Savari Totti is very great, for no light had been burnt in the Circus Pavilion since the evening previous, and it may be here noted that the five oil lamps which were kept lighted during the night in the corners of the Savari Totti, naturally, and as a matter of fact, had been extinguished before that hour of the day. Further, Mr. Hardaker points out that the festoons in the Circus Pavilion nearest to the point in the pandal where the fire appeared, were inside the eaves of the Pavilion, which the Plan (No. IV) shows to have been some 12 feet below the ceiling, and not directly communicating with it.

* * * * * *

"Sufficient reasons have already been shown for believing that the fire did not originate below the pandal, but before proceeding to consider the upper parts of the Palace, the possible causes of a conflagration in the Savari Totti may be briefly mentioned, and dealt with—

(*a*) *The Lamps.*—These, it has been noted above, were extinguished at daybreak.

(*b*) *The Electric Light.*—The engine which worked the dynamos was used only from 6 P.M. to 11 P.M.

(*c*) It has been asserted in some newspapers that the boiling of coloured water was going on on the Sunday morning for the Vasanta ceremony. On this point the evidence of the Controller is conclusive, *viz.*, that there was no place for boiling water in the Savari Totti, and that neither the Vasanta nor any other ceremony was to be held either on the Sunday or Monday.

"Coming to the portion of the Palace above the pandal which reached up to the level of the second storey, reference to the plan* shows that it was surrounded by open terraces on every side except the Sajje, that is, the east front which need not be further considered, for, as pointed out above, it was shut up and uninhabited. The rooms on the north side were sitting rooms, which were not in constant use, but on the west, the pandal was bounded by terraces above the Zenana living portion all along from the Madanvilas to the Krishnavilas, and on the south, by a terrace leading from the Sitavilas Devarmané (which was used as a waiting room for maid servants) to a room on south-west corner which was in daily use for boiling milk.

*No. III

"Before dealing with the evidence about this room, we will advert to a theory that the conflagration may have been connected with the careless disposal of charcoal used for drying the hair of one of the ladies after an oil bath. The evidence of the two serving women shows that the Third Princess did have an oil bath on that morning, but that her hair was dried with a cloth and not by heating over a fire, and as this operation was conducted on the first storey, below the level of the roof of the pandal, even if fire had been used, it would be necessary to suppose that the embers were taken upstairs and thrown over the parapet wall, before the conflagration could be accounted for in this manner.

Para 18 "The milk-boiling room presents far more serious cause for suspicion. As stated, this room was in the angle of the south and west terraces, at a distance of about 20 feet from the nearest point of the Pandal. For the purpose of the marriage festivities, the Maramat Bakshi states that he had put up a Chappar, between 5 and 6 feet high, running the whole length of the south terrace, as far as the boiling-room, for the use of Zenana ladies (see Plan IV, the Cross Section). This Chappar does not seem to have had any connection with the conflagration, but was in itself a danger, so close to the kitchen.

It must be noted that Plans II, III and IV are drawn from the memory of the Controller, Durbar Bakshi, and Palace Maramat Mukhtesar, (generally known as the Maramat Bakshi) as no detailed plans of the Palace are in existence.

"The Zenana Sheristedar states that about 80 or 100 seers of milk were boiled in this room for the use of the whole Zenana establishment, and that boiling went on all day, but the two women actually employed on this duty, say that they boiled for Her Highness only, and give the amount at 26 or 27 seers in the day. Putting the stories of the two women together we may take it that the milk for boiling had been brought on this Sunday before the fire broke out, and though Wit. 9 says that she had not yet lighted the kitchen fire, Wit. 10 says that it was the custom to light the ovens about 9 A.M. or 10 A.M. To do this, both agree that fire had to be brought, as Wit. 10 says, from the kitchen in the Kaman Totti, downstairs, for they kept no matches. Of course, Wit. 9, the woman in charge of the boiling on that day, denies that her fire had been lighted before the conflagration took place, and such a denial was only to be expected when she saw that her kitchen was under suspicion, but it is clear that in the ordinary routine, the kitchen fire would have to be lighted about the hour at which the conflagration occurred. To bring the fire from the Kaman Totti to the kitchen, the woman would pass through the old Namtirtha Totti or Krishnavilas and would emerge on to the terrace at a door marked on the map,* and would have to pass for about 50 feet along the open terrace, and up a few steps before turning into the door of the kitchen. When at these short steps, she would be about 8 feet only from the corner of the Pandal. The method used by all native servants in carrying fire is familiar, either glowing charcoal is carried on a tile, or a bundle of burning sticks is taken in the hand. The danger of a live spark being wafted by the wind from such burning wood or charcoal over the open terrace in the direction of the Pandal, or in any other direction, is at once obvious, and the distance of the spot† where the Pandal was first seen from below to be on fire from the nearest point in the line along which the woman must have passed will be seen by the plan ‡ to be only about 80 feet.

See Plan I.

It may be remarked, by the way, that the woman is herself burnt on one arm, and we are of opinion that she could throw far more light on the whole matter than she chooses to do.
See evidence of Wit. No. 10.

* Marked thus × (in blue ink), Plan III.

† Marked thus ·× (in red ink), Plan III.

‡ III.

Para 19 "It is, of course, impossible for the Committee to say with certainty either that the woman did actually carry fire on the fatal Sunday, or if she did, that the spark from it set fire to the Pandal, but what they must lay stress on is, that the evidence in connection with this kitchen discloses the existence of a set of circumstances which might, on any morning of the year, have caused a conflagration in the Palace, and which, while this vast area of inflammable Pandal existed in close proximity, can only be described as eminently dangerous.

Para 20 "The danger arising from the situation of this kitchen had attracted the attention of the Controller, some time before, as he admits, but

generally commends itself to the Government and will be communicated to the Palace authorities for needful action, in consultation with D. P. W. and with due regard to the extent of safety established by means of automatic Water-tanks, Sprinklers and other contrivances, which it may be found feasible to adopt. Whether, in addition to ordinary fire-engines, it is desirable to provide some "Extincteurs" using a mixture of water and chemicals, is deserving of investigation in the D. P. W.

6. When the Marriage Pandal was erected to cover the large area of 11,040 square feet and immense quantities of readily combustible materials were used in its construction and when on two sides this Pandal was surrounded by dwelling quarters inhabited by a large number of women-servants, the risk of fire should have naturally suggested itself to the responsible Palace officials, but it is apparent, as remarked by the Committee, that "the immunity enjoyed by similar Pandals erected from time to time during nearly half a century had resulted in the fear of fire occurring to no one." It is not easy to suggest what really effective measures, in the absence of permanent automatic precautions of the nature suggested above, were possible against a fire of such magnitude, but the Government agree with the Committee that some simple precautions like the following should have been adopted :—

"(i) Special men, or if not men, then women, should have been appointed to watch the Pandal from above.

(ii) Special fire-watchmen should have been detailed to observe the Pandal and Marriage decorations in the Savari Totti.

(iii) A large number of buckets of water should have been kept ready on the terraces above the Pandal, and a manual fire-engine ready for use—had such a thing existed—would obviously have been of great service."

7. The Government note with regret that not only were no such precautions taken, but that on the first outbreak of the fire the responsible Palace officials so lost their presence of mind that they failed to take what can be regarded as organized action to grapple with the situation. Their duty during the first fifteen or twenty minutes at any rate was to have taken their stand each on a side of the Pandal in flame and to have done whatever was possible to prevent the flame attacking the permanent building, instead of running in various directions to take care of jewels or other property, to call for labour etc, duties which could easily have been delegated to others. In all probability their efforts would have failed under the actual conditions of the fierce and sudden conflagration, the extraordinary rapidity with which it spread and the scanty water-supply; but this should have made no difference in what was required of them in the presence of the extraordinary emergency which had arisen.

8. Having in the preceding paragraphs dealt with the cause of the outbreak of fire and the circumstances attending it, reference may now be made to the loss caused by it.

9. There has most unfortunately occurred the loss of the lives of eight men, four of whom were Palace servants and the other four outsiders. All of them were helping to put out the fire or to remove property, each voluntarily doing what lay in his power. Six were killed on the spot by flame or by being caught under the falling débris and two died after treatment in Hospital. Her Highness the Maharani-Regent has been pleased to compensate the families of the deceased individuals by means of liberal money presents and pensions.

10. The Palace Buildings cover an area of 152,968 square feet. Of this 30,054 square feet have been destroyed, namely :—

1. The Sajje or the front portion and the three storeys rising above it to the gold Kalasa.
2. The Sanskrit Library, Armoury and Organ Room with the verandah in front forming the northern side of the Central Courtyard.
3. The Verandah forming the western side of the said Courtyard.

to devise if possible some suitable pavilion of non-combustible materials to cover the entire Central Courtyard so as to obviate the need for a temporary construction of the kind which took fire on the 28th February, on any future occasions of marriage and other festivities. It is hoped that the Chief Engineer will be able to expedite the construction of the above works, so as to permit of their use during the Dassara of 1898. The works above described will be charged to the D. P. W. Budget of the State, and full allotment of funds for them will be made during the current and the next official years.

17. ~~It only remains to repeat in this place~~ Her Highness the Maharani-Regent's heartfelt thanks as well for messages of sympathy received from all quarters, as for help from Officers of the State and from others and from persons of all conditions of life, who so readily came forward each to do what lay in his power to put out the fire or to save the property.

18. In conclusion the Government offers its best thanks to the Members of the Committee appointed to investigate the cause of the fire for the complete and excellent manner in which the work entrusted to them has been done.

has already been pleased to express, by means of a public notification, Her

C. SREENIVASIENGAR,
Secy. to Govt., Gen. & Rev. Depts.

Her Highness takes this opportunity of offering Her warmest acknowledgements to Col. Donald Robertson, the British Resident, whose kind sympathy, kindly feeling and generous valuable help have been of (such) special Comfort to Her

Code Class. 2C P

INDIAN TELEGRAPHS

Monthly Number.

To (Office) Bangalore

From (Office) Ootacamund

Words.	Day.	Hour.	Minute.	Official Instructions.
36	28	13	12	Urgt.

To (Person) Col. H. Brandt
Chief Engineer

From (Person) Governor.

Serious fire in palace
last night under control
might extend outside Malabar
please send Dy Special
and many fire chained as
could be got on Tramroad
Leonard too wired.

32 Word Form.

Recd. from LN.

Hrs. Min. by

Sent to LN.

At Hrs. Min. by

Telegraph Master

G G P—No. 494 T—27 4 98—4000000

BANGALORE 28 2 0

Pro: of the Govt of Mysore

Secret

Order No 90-94 of
Mysore 3rd March 1897 &c.

The Government of Mysore
resolve to appoint a Committee
Composed of the officers, named
in the Margin, to Enquire into,
and to report upon, the
Cause of the outbreak
of fire at the Mysore
Palace on the forenoon of
Sunday the 28th February
1897 and the Circs
attending it.

1. W. P. Nicholson (absent) } Chairman
Member of State Council
2. Col. C. Bowen R.E. } members
Chief Engr.
3. W. S. M. Fraser
Private Secretary to H.H.
The Maharaja
(with the Resident's consent)
4. Dalton Devanay Hzs

This has been altered
by H.H.

Intimation to
Members of the
Committee
& to Palace Comptroller
Each last named to
place what is in
Knowledge at H.H.'s
disposal & Council to give
them necessary leave
3.3.97

The Committee will be requested
to hold the Enquiry at
Some Convenient place
in or near the Palace
and to Submit its
report to Govt at the
Earliest possible date

By order.

Secy. Govt.
3/3/97

PAPERS REFERRED TO

IN

Appendix V.

Copy

Urgent

5th March "97
7.30 A.M.

My dear Seeba Ram Rao

To help us in the in-
-vestigation in which we are just
now engaged we shall want an
accurate sketch plan on a large
scale of the front portion of the
Palace to the East of Kanmadi Totti
This should show the Sawari Totti
Sejje' Balakhane', armoury,
Library and Music room to the
with all the galleries and Verandas
attached thereto as also the
temporary Constructions put up
on

On account of _____ the marriage.
The position of guards, doors, &c should
be indicated. Please also show if
possible, the places where the hydrants
had been placed. Similarly you may
have one for the first floor or the
second story and one for the second
floor showing the milk boiling room
and kitchen as also the temporary
sheds put up there. The rooms used
as Summer retreat above the
armoury and Library may also be
shown. The distances and heights
must be accurate and the sooner
you can let the Committee have them
the more useful they will be and I
shall ful obliged by your kindly
setting

Setting about this business as
early as possible

Yours Sincerely

Signed) B. N. Krishna Murthi

Jof.

D. Seetaram Rao Esqre
Palace Controller
Mysore.

GOVERNMENT OF MYSORE

The Controller is requested to produce a ground plan of the second floor, that is to say of all the buildings existing over the roof of Balakhana and the ~~adjoining stables~~ other three sides of the Savari Totti; especially marking the milk-boiling room, the door leading from it and the main case to the Kitchen in the Kannada Totti. The height of walls & roofs accurately. It is presumed that the Controller has plans of the Palace giving all the required ~~para~~ details, but if they are not in existence

and a plan has to be prepared
for the first time from memory
it is requested that the Conductor
Shri Darbar Bakshi, & Shri Karamat Bukhsh
should verify the accuracy of
the plan & sign it. This plan
is very urgently wanted &
is hoped that this may be
sent before noon on the 11th Instt.

10/3/97

"Copy"

Urgent

Saturday
6th March "97.

My dear friend,

I daresay you are aware of a Committee sitting for the investigation of the late fire in the Palace. My object in writing this to you is to enlist your sympathy and to obtain the help of the local Police in obtaining any useful information which they might have collected regarding the cause and circumstances of the

the fire - altho ——— we are proceeding in a thoroughly exhaustive manner yet it does not seem to be possible to obtain all the available information on the point. I did mention this to Mr. Handin when I met him a couple of days ago in the Palace and if he or Mohamed Jaffer has any useful information I shall be obliged by your kindly having it placed at the disposal of the Committee.

Yours very Sincerely
Signed) P. N. Krishna Murti

To/ V. P. Madhava Rao Esqre
Inspector General of Police
Mysore.

27.
Rec'd 9 Am

Yrs dear sir. 9/3/97.

All the plans that came in my Yrs & Maria that came Evening Am my mind kept on the table before the Committee on the Saturday - No further progress could be made

by the draftsman in preparing detailed sections as he had no plans with them

Yours truly

D. S. Richardson

"Copy"

Urgent

My dear Secretary

The plans I wanted are very urgently wanted. I shall be glad if these are sent as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Sd S. V. Krishnamurthi

9.3.97
S.A.M

To D. Subramania Rao Esq
Balance Controller

My dear Mr. Ramanujan

I enclose the
letter given me
yesterday. About
40 or 50 of the Scientists
will be at the Kanchal
Jubilee for Ayanchi
by the Committee. The
P[rin]ce was not able

Is set the Rhea ~~Co~~ Academy this morning

Jos Smith

L L Rhea

Impro

10/8/97

The Comptr. has been written again as this note is silent about the duties of Mr. H.L.C.

15/3.

Sir.

Mr. Hardcastle draws Rs 150 as salary + Rs 50 as an allowance and his designation is Mechanic + Electrician to the Mysore Palace. He has a permanent Establishment costing

monthly Rs 62 and no additional temporary hands to the Treasury Rs 160 a month are engaged by him

= The pay of Mr. H. Chubba Linganjan is Rs 75 & his designation is Mukhtesar of the Palace Manamatto department. He has two hundred and ten permanent men under him of different crafts costing monthly Rs 1353. In addition temporary workmen and coolies are engaged for all the works that have to be carried out from special occasions —

Yours faithfully
V. Sitaramiah

15/3/97.

To. H. Ramanuja Iyengar Esq

Minutes
received
18th March 1897
Dear Sir
19/3/97

Refering to my verbal statement to you regarding what I did on the occasion of the out-break of fire in the Palace I beg to be allowed an opportunity of making this statement before the Committee as I consider that it has an important bearing on my conduct on the occasion

Yours obediently
H Cuyana Jhrs

St. John's Hill
Bangalore. 16th March 97.

M. Ramanjaiengar Esq
Secy. Palace Fire Committee of Enquiry.
Mysore.

Dear Sir,

I beg to introduce myself to you as the Correspondent of the Madras Mail, Pioneer, & Civil & Military Gazettes, & write to ask if you will be so good as to favor me, as early as possible, with an advance copy of the proceedings of the Committee of Enquiry in connection with the recent fire at the Palace.

I should like to have it a day

before you send it to any other papers.

There is a rumour current here that certain State Jewels were found in the house of a certain high official & he has been unable to explain their presence. If there is any truth in this rumour would you be good enough to send me details, with name of the official (which will not be published.)

Hoping for an early reply.

Yours truly
J. M Cooper

P.S. If it is not in my power to give me the information asked for will you kindly refer the matter to the foreign author.

J. M Cooper

Augusta
March 19th 1859

Dear Sir

In reply to yours
of 16th inst: asking me
for an account of
the proceedings of the
Convention of Virginia in
connection with the result
of the Election, I
am of opinion that the

Mypore.
19.3.97.

My dear Col. Bowen.

I send herewith the draft Report. It was, as arranged, written by Mr Fraser, and both myself and Mr Narasaja Iyer approve of it. If you will kindly go through it at your early convenience and return it to me with your approval I propose to have the whole printed before this submitted to Government. The Conclusions are most accurately stated as settled by us and I doubt not you will go through it critically and favor us with any amendments or suggestions which may occur to you.

If

Bangalore

20—2—97

My dear Mr Krishna Iyer,

I return the draft report, approved by me.

On page 6, fourth line, "talk" should be Talc I think.

On page 37, when I saw last blue pencil X, when it is stated that a passport of Mr. High hid the panchak beauties from the sight of the women on the terrace, I think it should be noted that (if my memory is correct) there were small ornamental openings at intervals in the wall.

I think Mr Fraser deserves our best thanks for the excellent way in which he has drafted our conclusions. Nothing could be better, in my opinion.

Yours sincerely,

C. Herschel

GOVERNMENT OF MYSORE

My dear Mr

Herewith I send the report. I have not had time to get it signed by Col Bowen. He has passed the draft. The printed report will be ready in course of [illegible]

March 6. 1897

My dear Mr. Krishna Murti

I do not see the necessity for your working done such that the police might place at the disposal of the Committee any influence and their

possession. They are bound to give the Committee every info they may have regarding the Fire. I understand that your Secy has work in the Standing Orders given the Committee every book

in his power. I have spoken to the City Inspector and to place before the Committee all that the Police know about the Fire.

I believe me
yours sincerely
Hugh Cavanagh

Report

of the

Committee

appointed to investigate

The Palace Fire.

Index to the Report.

Subject.	Paras
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III Cause of the Fire	
(i) Point where the Fire first broke out.	5 to 7.
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I. Introductory.

Appendix I

This Committee was appointed by an order of the Government of Mysore (a copy of which is attached) dated 3rd March 1897, and commenced its Sittings on the following day. The Inquiry proceeded till March 10th, and in the course of it 71 witnesses were examined Comprising 50 called by the Committee, 7 Sent up by the Police as present in the Palace yard when the fire occurred, and 14 who petitioned the Committee and repeated their Statements before it. It is believed that no Source of information bearing on the matter has been overlooked, and the Committee have Considered every theory, in

which letter was brought to their notice, so far as it might give a clue to the discovery of facts.

2. The order of reference defined the duty of the Committee in the following words:-

"To enquire into, and to report upon, the Cause of the Outbreak of fire at the Mysore Palace on the forenoon of Sunday, the 28th Feby 1897, and the circumstances attending it."

The latter part of the Inquiry, namely into "the circumstances attending" the fire, we have divided thus:-

i) The precautions taken by the Responsible Officers before the Fire.

(ii) The action taken by those officers immediately after the fire broke out.

II Description of the part of the Palace destroyed.

3 The extent of the block which has been burnt will be seen at a glance from Plan I, in which it is marked with a red dotted line, and the portions comprised will be sufficiently described as —

i The Amba Vilas or new Durbar Hall

ii The Bala Khana on the ground floor with ~~the~~ Yeh and the Seeta Vilas Terrace above.

iii The Sowari Totti, under which name we include the whole of the Main inside Court-

Courtyard, and
both directly the
Queen's Pavilion,
which stands with
iv The Music
Gallery, with Organ
Room, Library and
Armoury adjoining,
and an open terrace,
and the Hosa Devan
- Khana above.

v The whole
frontage of the
Palace, with the
Sajje or Daseera
Durbar Hall and
the three storeys
above rising to
the golden Kalasa.

14 It will be shewn
further on that the fire
originated in the Marriage
Pandal which had been,
(as usual on such occa-

- Seen

occasions) Constructed over — the whole of the Sowari Jotti, and it is necessary to describe this Courtyard and the decora tions which existed on the 28th. February.

Approaching through the Elephant gateway, which is a passage 38½ ft. long, by 9 ft. broad one entered the Sowari Jotti (100 ft. × 92 ft.) from under a fourteen-foot Verandah, running on the north to the Sajji — and Music Gallery — Stair-Case, and on the South to the Ghaunte' Pahara. From the Ghaunte' Pahara a Cor -dor led on to the Bird gateway, and a stair Case went up to a

pass

passage opening —
into the Amba Vilas.
The Bala Khana was a
kind of hall 48 ft deep,
divided into three —
areades by rows of
pillars, and reaching
from the Sowari Jotti,
of which it formed the
Southern side, back to
the wall of the Amba
Vilas. For the marriage
Ceremonies the Bala
Khana had been extend
-ed by the construction
of a platform, 21 ft. 6 in.
broad, up to the edge
of the Circus Pavilion.
On this platform was
the marriage mantap,
made of tale and
spet, and teak
pillars

pillars supported a temporary hipped roof, made of bamboos and Cocoanut leaves. The Construction of the whole will be clear on reference to the Cross section, Plan IV. Another temporary hipped roof, it appears, sprang from the pillars of the temporary platform and rested on the Conical top of the Circus Pavi- -lion, and from the point where they met, on a level with the Second storey, the flat roof of the Pandal began, and extended over the whole of the Sowari Totti. The Pandal was supported at a height-

height of 30 ft. from the ground, by a number of teak and areca palm poles, and was also fastened to the eaves of the second storey on three sides of the court-yard. At the four corners the roof of the Pandal rose into domes about 8 ft above the surrounding level, and the corners of the circus Pavilion (which was decagonal in shape) were left open for ventilation (See Plan III). The Pandal itself Consisted of a frame work of bamboo and areca palm poles, Covered with palm leaves and

matting

matting, with a ceiling of Calico.

The poles which supported it were draped with white and red cloth and the whole Court, with the various Pavilions was profusely decorated with fringes of red cloth, and paper garlands hung between the posts and the pillars all round. Including the temporary roof over the extension of the Bala-Khana with the Pandal, the area of the whole was 11,040 Sq. ft.

5 After the above III Cause of the fire
description of the por-
-tion of the Palace con-
cerned, we come to the
question of the Cause
of the fire, and will
first Consider the ev
idence as to the ev
point where it broke
out, and then discuss
the theories of Incendi-
-arism, Spontaneous
Combustion, and ac-
-cident.

6 Point where the
fire first broke out.

The Conflagration
took place, as nearly
as possible, about
9.30 A.M. according to
the opinion of the

witnesses

witnesses generally (See for example Nos. 15, 16, 48 and the Controller's evidence) and at that hour of the day there were so many persons present in the Sowari Totti on duty at the different guards,* and so many were above attracted by the alarm, that abundant evidence is available about the spot where the fire was first observed. We take it as established beyond doubt-

* viz:-
1. The Elephant gate
2. The Ghanti Pahara
3. The Zenanah stair-case.
4. The Kannadi Totti door.
5. The Madan Vilas stair-case.
6. The Sajja staircase.

doubt that flames were seen first in the ceiling of the Pandal, at a point a few feet to the north of the centre of the Circus pavilion, between it and the music gallery. (See witnesses 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 24, 27, the Dewan, 48, the Controller and Mr. Hardaker). When first noticed there, the fire was only a small circular patch on the ceiling cloth, so that it is clear that this is the point where it made its appearance, and the flames spread from this one centre only, for no one alleges that

fire

fire was ever seen at
two or more distinct spots
7 The question next
arises — "Was the fire
communicated to the
ceiling of the Pandal in
from the Sowari Totti,
below, or from the out
side, above?"
To this also the positi
tive answer can be
given, that the fire must
have originated above
for the following reasons:
Not one of the
many witnesses who
were present in the
Sowari Totti mentions
seeing any of the deco
rations below in
flames. And, while
it was only by climbing
up

up the festoons between the pillars that fire could have reached the ceiling from below, the improbability of it originating in the Sowari Jotti is very great, for no light had been burnt in the Fire Pavilion since the evening previous, and it may therefore noted, that the 5 Oil lamps which were kept lighted during the night in the corners of the Sowari Jotti, naturally, and as a matter of fact, had been extinguished before that hour of the day (See Mr. Hardaker and witness. 8). Further, Mr. Hardaker points out that the festoons

in

in the Corinthian pavilion nearest to the point in the Sandal where the fire appeared, were inside the eaves of the pavilion, which the plan (No. IV) shows to have been some 12 ft. below the Ceiling, and not directly Communicating with it.

8 We are now in a position to examine the various theories as to the Cause of the fire.

a. Incendiarism.

It may be at once said that only one point has been brought to our notice which might in any way lend itself to Suspicion and that is the alleged failure of

Certain

Certain of the hydrants
at the time when the
fire broke out. At the
first alarm Mr Hardaker's
man from the fire
enquire into the Sowari
Jotti, William top of
time, and stationed it
under the Sundal near
the Chamaan gate, where
Mr Hardaker himself
took charge of it. His
first act was to open
the nearest of the three
hydrants in the Sowari
Jotti, but no water
came; he then went
to the next hydrant,
the one near the
Madan Lila door and
opened it, but with
the same result. Before
the third could be
tried

tried, the Pandal fell
——— in, and the engine
was abandoned. We
much here remark on
the error of judgment
shown in placing the
Engine immediately
under the burning
pandal which it was
expected to attack. With
Mr. Hardaker when he
opened the hydrants
was the Controller, and
both deny that any
water at all Came.
9 To find an explana
tion of this failure,
the Committee took
evidence about both
the recent history of
these particular hy
drants and the Water
Supply System in
general

general, which feed them.
Reference to the map
(Plan I) will show that
there is a valve outside (marked I)
the North West Corner
of the Palace, near where the
pipe which feeds these
three hydrants leaves
the main before it
passes in front of the
Kanikal Jotti and
round by the Bidadi
gate. Inside the Palace
yard, Called the Salgeri
(woman's yard) there
is another valve, by (marked II)
which also the supply
to the three hydrants
Could be turned off
and on. The existence
of this latter valve,
it will be noted below,
was not known to the
Controller or Mr Hardaker;

Nor

Nor is there any evidence before us that anyone ever used this valve, which being inside the Zenanah portion was not ordinarily accessible to men. With regard to the hydrants themselves, there is the evidence of Mr. Hardake that he had opened one of them five days before the fire, on 23rd February to water the outside of the Palace, and Mr Controller too says that they were used and found in good order about a week before. No later information as to the state of the hydrants before the 28th is forthcoming, but since the

fire

fire (8th March) ...
Col. O'Bowen reports that
one of these hydrants
has been cleared of
debris and it is work-
-ing all right. It is
certain therefore that
there was no obstruction
inside the pipe between
the hydrant and the
valve, and that for
any interruption we
must look to the ...
valves instead. As to
the outside valve, the
Water Inspector (witness
12) and his Turn key
(No. 40) both say that
they inspected it on
the day after the Pro-
-cession, which would
be, the 25th, three days
before the fire, and
that the valve was
- then

them left open by them for water to flow to the hydrants.

10. Turning to the general water system the Vice President of the Municipality who is now responsible for the supply to the whole town of Mysore — (witness 39.) and the water Inspector (No. 12) tell us that as a matter of practice there is no interruption of the usual supply on Sundays and that if the water has to be turned off for any repairs to the pipes, notice is first given to the town; is

further

further, as a matter of actual fact, the Inspector tells us that on that morning, as soon as he heard of the fire he examined the main and found the supply of water as full as usual. This seems to have been the case, for other taps and hydrants in the Fort, were giving water that morning, with the exception of one tap by Mr. Hardaker's gas room, as to which we can suggest no explanation at all. Evidence has been taken about the following

ing

following points on the main:-

(1) The taps in the Bridadi (witnesses 44 and 47)

(2) The hydrant before the Elephant gate.

(3) The taps in the private house of Mr Dalvoy Devaraj Ars close to the Kennur Mutty.

(4) The hydrant by the Bridadi gate.

(5) The hydrant in the Karikal Totte garden (witness 45).

With the exception of the last named, the supply seems to have been

(2) (witness 7. "there was no water coming, that is, no flow of water."
witness 46 "a little water, not enough to fill the hose".)

(3) (witness 3. "a small quantity of water came till 11. A.M. when it in-creased")

(4) (witness 46. "a little water, only enough to make a flow up to the door-steps")

been every where
scanty, and at the
two hydrants — Nos (2)
and (4) the water ap
-parently only just
welled over, but as
long as there was any
water at all in these pipes
it is clear that there
was no stoppage of the
general supply to the
town, to account for
the complete failure
of the three hydrants
in the Sowari Toti. When
the Water Inspector on
hearing of the fire went
and turned on the
Causeway water, an
abundant supply
was available every
where, but this was,

Of

7

of course, at a later
period than the one we
are now enquiring into,
when, the mains in the
part of the town in which
the Palace is situated,
were, as usual, fed from
the Kurkarhalli Tank
only (See witnesses 12 & 39).

The following explan-
-nations of the difficulty
are possible :-

I. That Mr Handaker
and the Controller in their
hurry and Confusion
have made a mistake.
Supposing that a little
water did come in the
hydrants, say even
to the same extent as
in the Kennman Matty
and Bidadi hydrants
(described

(described above) there would be so little as to make it useless for them to attack the house with any hopes of producing a jet, and being for their purposes, as worthless as no water at all, the impression may have developed in their minds that the hydrants were totally dry. A mistake might easily be made, and if we had to trust for our information to one hurried view in the case of the Kenmare Mattyhy drank, as we have to in the case of the Sowar Jotti hydrants, we should no doubt have been told that there was no water in that also. (See the statements of Mr Vandryer

No.

No. 7 and Shamlal
(Mr Hardaker's Servant.
No. 46.)

If Assuming that Mr Hardaker and the Controller opened the hydrants properly – and were Mr. Hardaker not a trained mechanic it would be possible to suppose that he jammed them in his flurry – and that no water at all came, it must be concluded that some one had turned off either the Salgeri or the outside valve, for the fact that one of these hydrants is now working shows that it was not the pipe which was to blame.

From the evidence of the Vice President of the Municipality it appears that the following

Palace

Palace Servants are in
possession of the Uni
-versal Keys which fit
all the valves:-

Mr Handaker 2
Paparam 1
The Mali 1

Messrs Basavalingappa
and Shama Rao also
have Keys for the Jagan
Mohan and Stables res
-pectively. Of Muni-
cipal Officers, the Water
Inspector and his two
Jamadars have 2 Keys
jointly, the Kurkenhalli
Jamadar watchman has
two Keys and there is
one in the Jail. As
was to be expected, none
of these admit having
turned off either the
Outside or Saligeri valve;
and no motive appears

for

for their doing so. Coming to the possibility of some outside person having done it, it can only be said that if a criminal laid himself out to turn off the water in furtherance of a plan to burn down the Palace, such a man would have had little difficulty in stealing or making a key of such a simple pattern, or in turning the nut of the valve with some or other implement. But nothing in the evidence suggests that such an individual existed, and the Committee, while regretting that they have been unable to solve the problem, think that, bearing in mind the

feeble

feeble head of water which existed in the other pipes close to the Palace on that Sunday morning, the theory which does least violence to the probabilities is the one that a very little water did come in the hydrants and that no tampering with the Palace Supply had taken place at all.

12. Proceeding with the theory of Incendiarism we have to consider what means of access existed to the second storey which would have to be reached by any one wishing to light the Pandal from above. The plan (No. III) will show that on the South, West

West, and North sides, the Pandal was surrounded by Zenanah Quarters, and on the East side was the Sajja which does not form part of the Zenanah. Enquiry proved that this side of the Sajja, which looked over the Pandal was ascended by only one stair-case, in the South East corner, and that the door of this staircase, which was used solely by those who went up to light the big lamp under the golden Kalasa, was locked and sealed, according to custom, on Saturday night by the Kandilwalla, the gollar and the

Rachewar

Rachenvar Havildar,
whose duty it was to
see to this jointly. The
staircase was never
opened in the morning,
as the supply of oil in
the lamp was so arranged
that it burnt itself out
before dawn.

We came to the con-
clusion then that no
person could have got
to the Saijje side to throw
fire on to the Pandal,
and that if it was thrown
at all, the incendiary
must have been one
of the women servants
who had access to the
other three sides of the
Pandal. But, it need
hardly be pointed out
how great is the im-
probability of anyone
running the risk in-

volved

involved in doing such
an act after
9 O'clock in the morning,
when the same purpose
might have been more
effectually carried out
at night without fear
of observation.

To Conclude — On the
evidence before them, the
Committee Consider that
there is no reason to be-
lieve that the fire was
due to incendiarism.

B Spontaneous
Combustion.

13. The Committee have
not omitted to weigh
this theory, but Consid-
-dering the structure
and materials of the
Pandal, and the early
hour of the day, they
do not see how flame
could have been produced
under

under the circumstances by either friction, Chemical action, or the direct heat of the Sun, and must dismiss the theory as almost impossible.

Nor is it probable that there was any object on the outside of the Pandal which could have served as a burning glass to set it on fire, particularly at that early hour of the morning.

c. Accident.

14. Sufficient reasons have already been shown for believing that the fire did not originate below the Pandal, but before proceeding

to

Consider the upper
-ts of the Palace, the
possible causes of a
Conflagration in the Sowa
Jotti may be briefly
mentioned, and dealt-
with.

(i) The lamps. These,
it has been noted
above, were extinguish
-ed at day break.

(ii) The Electric light.
The engine which work
-ed the dynamos was
used only from 6 P.M to
11. P. M.

(iii) It has been
asserted in some
Newspapers that the
boiling of Coloured water
was going on on the
Sunday morning for
the Vasanta Ceremony.

On

On this point the evidence of the Controller is Conclusive, viz, that there was no place for boiling water in the Sarvani Jotti, and that neither the Vasanta nor any other Ceremony was to be held either on the Sunday or Monday.

15. Coming to the portion of the Palace above the Pandal which reached up to the level of the second storey, reference to the plan (No. III) shows that it was surrounded by open terraces on every side except the Sajje, that is, the back front which need not be further considered,

for

for, as pointed out above, it
——— was shut up and
uninhabited. The rooms
on the north side were
sitting rooms, which
were not in constant
use, but on the west,
the Pandal was bounded
by terraces above the
Zenanah living portion
all along from the
Madan Vilas to the
Krishna Vilas, and on
the South by a terrace
leading from the Sita
Vilas Devaramane'
(which was used as a
waiting room for maid
Servants) to a room
on South west Corner
which was in daily
use for boiling milk.

 Before

16. Before dealing with the evidence about this room, we will advert to a theory that the Conflagration may have been Connected with the careless disposal of Charcoal used for drying the hair of one of the ladies after an oil bath. The evidence of the two Serving women (Witnesses 55 and 56) shows that the third Princess did have an oil bath on that morning, but that her hair was dried with a cloth and not by heating over a fire, and as this operation was conducted on the first storey below the level of the roof of the Bandal, even if fire had been used, it would be necessary to suppose that the

the embers were taken upstairs and thrown over the parapet wall, before the conflagration could be accounted for in this manner.

17. The milk boiling room presents far more serious cause for suspicion. As stated, this room was in the angle of the South and west terraces, at a distance of about 20 ft. from the nearest point of the Pandal. For the purpose of the marriage festivities, the Maramat Bakshi states that he had put up a Chupper between 5 and 6 ft. high, running the whole length of the South terrace, as far as the boiling room, for the use of Zenanah ladies.

This

It must be noted that Mans II. III & IV are drawn from the memory of the Controller, Durbar Bakshi, and Palace maramat mukhtesias (generally known as the maramat Bakshi) as no detailed plans of the Palace are in existence.

See Map IV. (The Cross Section.)

This Chuppee does not
seem to have had any
Connection with the Con-
flagration, but was in
itself a danger, so close
to the Kitchen.

The Zenanah Sheris
-tedar (No. 5) states that
about 80 or 100 Seers of
milk were boiled in this
Room for the use of the
whole Zenanah establish
-ment, and that boil-
-ing went on all day, but
the two women (Nos 9 & 10)
actually employed on this
duty say that they boiled
for Her Highness only,
and give the amount
at 26 or 27 Seers in the
day. Putting the stories
of the two women together
we may take it that
the milk for boiling had
been brought on this or

Sunday

Sunday before the fire a
——— broke out, and
though No. 9 says that she
had not yet lighted the
kitchen fire, No. 10 says
that it was the custom
to light the ovens about
9. A.M. or 10 A.M. To do this, both
agree that fire had to
be brought as No. 10, says,
from the kitchen in the
Kaman Tatti, down stairs
for they kept no matches.
(vide Lieutenant Steinbach's
Ranga Rao No. 5). Of course No. 9,
the woman in charge of
the boiling on that day,
denies that her fire had
been lighted before the
conflagration took place,
and such a denial was
only to be expected when
she saw that her kitchen
was under suspicion*;
but it is clear that in the

See Plan I

* N- may be remarked by
the way that this woman
is herself burnt on one

ordinary

ordinary routine, the kitchen fire would have to be lighted, about the hour at which the conflagration occurred. To bring the fire from the Kannan Jotti to the kitchen the woman would pass through the old Nam. Jotti Jotti or Krishna Vilas, and would emerge on to the terrace at a door marked on the map*; would have to pass for about 50ft. along the open terrace and up a few steps before turning into the door of the kitchen. When at these short steps she would be about 8ft. only from the Corner of the Pandal. The method used by all native servants in carrying fire is familiar; either glowing charcoal is carried on a tile, or a

Army, and we are of opinion that she could throw far more light on the whole matter than she chooses to do.

(See Evidence of Witness No. 10.

+ Plan III

a bundle of burning sticks is taken in the hand. The danger of live spark being wafted by the wind from such burning wood or charcoal over the open terrace in the direction of the Pandal, or in any other direction, is at once obvious, and the distance of the spot where the Pandal was first seen from below to be a fire from the nearest point in the line along which the woman must have passed will be seen by the plan to be only about 80 ft.

Marked thus – +
Plan III.

Plan III

18. It is, of course, impossible for the Committee to say with certainty whether the woman did actually carry fire on the fatal Sunday, or if she did, that a spark from

on in such fire to the
sundal, such which they
such lay steps on is, as
ith the evidence in con-
nection with this as
itchen discloses the
xistence of a set of cir
cumstances which
ight, on any morning of
e year, have caused
conflagration in the
lace, and which, while
is part area of in-
flamable Sandal exist
-ed in close proximity,
can only be described
as eminently danger-
-ous.

19. The danger arising
from the Situation
of this kitchen had
attracted the attention
of the Controller, some
time before, as he ad
-mits, but he contented

himself

12

himself with warning
—— the Zenanah
Sheristedars and others
to be careful, and the
Committee are of opinion
that he was guilty of
agrave neglect of duty
in not bringing the
matter to the notice of
Her Highness the Maha
Rani herself.

20. It is only in con
-nection with the rice
-boiling kitchen that an
evidence of fire having
been actually used on
the terraces above the
Pandal, has come to our
notice, but it is needless
to point out that this
room by no means ex
-hausts the possibili
ties of danger. A mere
statement of the dimen
-sions of the Pandal

(11,040.

(11040 Sq. ft.) – an un-
protected mass of in-
flammable material
surrounded on three
sides by dwelling quarters
inhabited by a large
number of women ser-
vants is sufficient to
suggest continual
risks of fire in a dozen
ways, and the fact that
there was a parapet
wall some 6 ft high,
which hid the Pandal
from the sight of the
women on the terrace,
while at first sight
seeming a security, as
may have proved the
opposite by causing
them to forget at
moments the existence
of the danger on the
other side. Nor must

we

we overlook altogether the possibility of a Spark being carried up by the wind from the houses of the Fort, which approach close to the Palace particularly on the Southern Side.

21. To Sum up — the Committee record it as their opinion that the Pandal was accidentally lighted from above, and while the circumstances make it possible for the fire to have originated from many sources, they are of opinion that the most probable cause was the carrying of open fire to the milk boiling kitchen.

22. We come now to the Second Stage, viz —

An

→ See Plan V

IV Circumstances attending the fire.

an enquiry into "the circumstances attending" the fire, and, as said above, we have interpreted this to mean an enquiry into the action of the responsible Palace Officers before, and after the fire. Dealing with what preceded the conflagration we have to examine,—

(a) The normal pre-cautions against fire.

(b) The special pre-cautions taken on the occasion of the marriage.

23 (a) Normal Precautions

(i) Water Supply.

It appears that the following hydrants existed in the Palace

Palace limits:—

(i) One in the Salgare Yard

(ii) Three in the Sowcari Totti.

(iii) Two in the Kennman matty

(iv) One near the Bidadi entrance

(v) One near the Theatre entrance

So far as these went they were good, but the Committee think that they were insufficient, and that when the Palace Water System was being considered more hydrants should have been placed, so as to command fully, any spot where fire might break out. The extremely poor supply in the

the pipes until the Cauvery water was turned on, has been already commented upon, both for this the apparently inadequate Scale of the town System when Kukkarahalli water alone is used, rather than the Palace authorities, was to blame. The latter, however, would have been wise to arrange for Cauvery water being laid on, at any rate, during the marriage festivities.

(ii) Fire Engines and appliances.

24. There was only one Small fire Engine (a Steam one) in the Palace, and

and when this was
put out of action in the
first 10 minutes, no
means of throwing a jet
of water remained. The
Committee are perhaps
not going beyond their
province, if they record
their opinion that at
least four powerful
Steam Engines are need
-ed for a building of
the size of the Mysore
Palace, and as not less
than 10 minutes would
probably be ~~required~~ to
get up steam, these
should be supplemen
-ed by a few manual
With regard to pots a
buckets it appears to
there was no provis

Of these for use in case
of fire, and miscellaneous
vessels had to be col-
lected from any quarter,
with a waste of time,
which was invaluable
at the beginning of the
out-break.

iii Responsibility

25. From the evidence
of the Controller and of
Mr Hardaker, it appears
that no one was res-
ponsible for seeing that
the Water-Supply System
of the Palace as a whole
was in working order,
or for taking special
measures to prevent
fire. So far did this
absence of responsibility
, that neither of the
two Officers named were
even

even aware of the ~~ex~~ existence of the Salyare valve, till the Committee discovered it. It follows naturally that no staff had been told off with special duties in case of fire occurring.

(b) Special Precautions

26. The only measure in the way of special precautions suggested by the special danger of the marriage decorations, was the provision of the three hydrants in the Sowari Totti, and this had been done after the Royal marriage in 1896. Before reflecting on the want of foresight shown by those responsible, the

Committee

Committee have had
to consider in their own
minds what precautions
might reasonably
have been expected
under the circumstances
The immunity enjoy
-ed by similar pandals
erected from time to time
during nearly half a century
had resulted in the
fear of fire occurring
to no one, and even if
it had been thought of,
it is hard to see what
really effective protect
-ion could have been
provided against a
fire of such magni-
-tude, without building
large storage tanks on
the terraces, and this
would probably have
required

required special struc-
-tural additions to
support the weight.
The necessity of reckon-
-ing with the danger
from such Pandals is
a point which will
doubtless engage the
attention of the archi-
-tect who rebuilds the
Palace. Both, apart
from permanent
measures, such as
tanks on the terraces
the Committee think
that, at any rate, the
following simple pre-
cautions (which possi-
-bly might have
nipped the fire in the
bud) should have been
maintained from the
time that the Pandal
was

was Constructed, viz-

(i) Special men, or if not men, then women, should have been appointed to watch the Pandal from above.

(ii) Special fire-watch-men should have been detailed to observe the Pandal and marriage de-corations in the Sowcari Totti.

(iii) A large number of buckets of water should have been kept ready on the terraces above the Pandal, and a manual fire Engine ready for use - had such a thing exist-ed - would ob-viously

obviously have been of great Service.

(c) 27 The second part of "the circumstances attending" the fire, we take to be the action of the responsible officials immediately after the fire became known. Only a short period of time is in question, for the suppression of the flames depended entirely on the energy of the measures adopted within the first, say 15 minutes, and we do not regard it as within the scope of our inquiry to consider the action of anyone at a later stage when the fire had got beyond control. Only three important

Palace

Palace Officers were on the spot, the Controller, the Durbar Bakshi, and the Maramat Bakshi, and as our enquiry deals with the very first stage of the fire above, it is necessarily limited to these three. No Concert-ed measures were taken by them, and we will examine the individual action of each separately.

28 (i) The Controller.

Sir Seetharam Rao was with the Dewan, the Durbar Bakshi, and the Maramat Bakshi in the Madan Vilas looking at the jewels brought by a merchant, when the alarm was

given

given, and running
along the music Hall
gallery and down the
stairs, he came into the
Sowari Jotti by the Chaun
gate. The sight that met
his eyes was a patch of
fire about 2 yards in
length and 1 yard in
breadth in the ceiling
cloth of the Pandal im-
-mediately to the north
of the Circus Pavilion,
and we may take it,
therefore, that he arrived
on the spot when the fire
was in a very early-
stage. Following his
statement, his first ac-
-tion was to assist
Mr. Hardaker to open
the two hydrants in
the Sowari Jotti, but by
the time that the stand-
pipe

stand-pipe was fixed
on the second hydrant,
the sides of the small
dome in the Coundal
above fell in. The
Controller then ran
upstairs to the Madan
Vilas to take care of
the 4 or 5 lakhs worth
of jewels which the
merchants had brought
and never returned to
the scene of the fire in
the Sowcar Pettè, but
went on to the State jewel
room. In his own language
he took no other measure
for averting the fire, be-
-yond looking to the two
hydrants, and he did not
give orders for any measures
to be taken.

29 The above accurately
represents the substance
of

of the Controller's own story,
and on it the Committee
think it obvious that
he at once abandoned
his chief duty, which was,
to try to put out the fire,
or failing that, to pre-
vent its spreading. With
his special knowledge of
the composition of the
Pandal, it was the duty
of an officer in the posi-
tion of the Palace Controller
to remain by the fire and
direct strenuous efforts
to putting it out. Had
his efforts failed, no one
would have blamed him
under the circumstances,
but the absence of all
effort cannot be ex-
cused. His reason for
leaving the Sowari Toshi
was, he says, to take

Cere

Case of the Merchant's
jewels as ordered by
the Dewan, but even
if the latter bore him
out that such an
order was given, (which
he does not) it was the
duty of the Controller
to delegate the charge
of the valuables to some
one else and immediately
Return to the fire. He
also states that he left
the Sowari Totti because
the fire was spreading so
fast that he thought
it was useless to
attempt to save it. This
view of the situation
may have been correct,
and would have justi
-fied his leaving the
Sowari Totti in order
to call in aid, and
take

and take immediate measures to prevent the fire extending to the Amba Vilas, or other sides, but did not justify him in going away altogether from where the fire was burning.

30. A large body of witnesses have stated that when the fire first broke out they were prevented from entering the Elephant gate of the Sowari Jotti, (and some add, the Bidadi gate as well) by Sepoys and Palace servants acting under the orders of the Controller, and by the Controller himself.

When questioned about this the Controller said

The evidence on this point may be classified

said "I do not remember issuing orders to the guards to keep out the people at the gates. I don't remember at this stage whether I did, or did not issue orders to keep the people out.... I don't remember whether the question of either calling in people, or excluding them engaged my attention in the Sowari Jotti. I may have given orders on the subject." He also states that he did not show himself in front of the Elephant gate till about two hours later. A great deal of the evidence of the witnesses is open to criticism, but the effect of the Controller's statement is to support their main story, rather than otherwise, for he cannot say positively that he did not keep

Classified thus:-

(a) Two of the Bara Sepoys in the Sowari Jotti (W 14 & 15)

(b) Two women (W 23 and 24).

(c) Seven witnesses from the Dod Bolgere, men who were in the Palace yard when the fire occurred. These came forward, on the Committee telling the Superintendent of Police that they were willing to hear the evidence of any one who was present at the beginning of the conflagration.

(d) Fourteen witnesses, being mostly merchants living near the Jagan Mohan Palace, who sent a petition to the Committee and repeated their statements before it.

(e) Mr. Hughes (Superintendent of Zoological gardens) who arrived early on the scene, saw the Controller outside the gate and had to get his permission to go in.

Keep the people out, and it really seems from his Confused account that he may have been in such a state of excitement as not to know what he was doing at the time. The Committee cannot but come to the conclusion that as a matter of fact, the people at the Elephant gate were kept out by the Controller and his Sepoys. It is very doubtful if they were excluded by him at the Bidadi gate.

31. The important question then arises - whether it was a wise or unwise measure to keep out the people from the Sowari Jotti. It would have been quite open for the Controller to argue that he was right to bar the gates, but he does not take this line, and having no assistance from him, we find it hard to pronounce

on

on the fourth without the knowledge which only eye witnesses could possess.

There seems little doubt that a considerable number of people gathered at once on the alarm of fire, for many like the Dodda Holgere Belel-leaf farmers, must have come to the Palace yard, to see the marriage decorations. It is also probable that numbers of these were ready and willing to do what they could, in putting out the fire, though obviously the estimate of men outside in the open ~~i~~ as to what was possible inside, in the flaming Court, is of little value. It has been suggested that if these men had been called in at the earliest moment, they might have brought

down the Pandal, by cut-ting the poles which sup-ported it. As to this, our opinion is that the only way to have let down the Pandal would have been the almost impracticable one of cutting it from above, where it was attached all round to the second storey, and that to have called men in to cut the poles underneath the burning Pandal before it fell in, would have been accepting a very grave res-ponsibility indeed, as the attempt would have very likely resulted in the burning of many people. Nor, Considering the slend-erness of the poles, the lack of cutting implements and the amazing rapidity of the fire, do we think that such an attempt would have met with success.

32. When after a short time

time the Pandal did fall in, the poles which had supported it naturally fell this way and that, slanting against the surrounding galleries of the Sowari-Court, and carried the flames up into the windows of the first storey. One witness — Mr. Hughes (No. 11) gives it as his opinion that at this moment men might have dragged out the burning areca palm and other poles, and prevented the communication of the flames to the permanent buildings, but even according to his own showing this was possible for a few minutes only, and we hesitate to either endorse or reject his view. The evidence however, shows that when the Pandal

was

was wholly or in large
——— part down, men
did go into the Sowari Lotto,
and some (See witness 11)
passed along the verandah
on the east to the Amba
Vilas, in safety. It seems
probable that some attack
could then have been
directed on the flaming
portions from below, but
the Controller made no use
of the fact that men could
now enter (which was de-
monstrated by their
rushing in, in spite of
him (witnesses 14 & 15)
and, as throughout, he
attempted nothing.

33 To sum up.—

The situation was
an exceedingly difficult
one. If the Controller did
keep the people out from the
Sowari Lotti, as we believe
he did, and supposing
that

that he acted on the reasoning suggested above for him — he may or may not have been guilty of an error of judgment, but at the most, the Committee consider this as far less worthy of remark than his failure to attack the flames, and his early departure from the scene of the fire as described in his own statement.

34 (vii) The Durbar Bakshi.

Mr. A. Lingaraj has arrived in the Serwani Jotti at the same early stage as the Controller, and proceeded to help to unwind the hose. Meanwhile the dome in the North East Corner of the Pandal Came down and caused the Engine to be abandoned. The Durbar

Bakshi

Bakshi then left the scene of the fire by the Chaman gate, and calling for help, ran to the door outside the Madan Vilas (the Wola Bagali) and asked the guard for water pots, but found none. He then went to the Madan Vilas to inform Her Highness the MahaRani but she had gone.

According to a supplementary statement which Mr H. Lingaraj Aps has asked leave to make to the Committee (See page) he was at this time told that the Yuvaraj and another boy were missing and he went to several rooms in search of them, before he was informed that they had been found.

He next began to remove things from the Lakshmi

N B
The evidence will follow.

Lakshmi Vilas, and made one excursion to the Organ Room to tell people to remove things from there. After Continuing to rescue valuables from the Lakshmi Vilas for a time, he organized the servants, and poured water from the Zenana terrace to prevent the fire spreading to the Madan Vilas.

Reviewing the action of this official, the Committee think that he did not sufficiently grasp the immediate receptities of the situation. We Consider that having gone back to the Zenana quarters, he was right to personally look for the Yuvaraj, (vide his supplementary statement) but the time this spent cannot have been more than a very few minutes, as the Yuvaraja's Dressing Room and the Doll rooms where

36. To Conclude - We must once more repeat our opinion that the fierceness of the sudden Conflagration, and the want of water, made the position a most difficult one for these officers to be placed in, but, while no one would have blamed them for their efforts failing, it was their first duty to remain by the fire and to make efforts of some kind to put it out, or to prevent its extending to the rest of the Palace.

1. [illegible] Member of Commission

2. will be named hereafter Colonel Bowen has left me for the Fort

3. [illegible] J.C.S. Tutor & Governor to H.H. the Maharajah of Jeypore

4. Dalwar Ramdass C.

24th March 1897
Jeypore.

A distract translation of
*petition / reporting to proceed
* 26th March/97. from the residents of Mysore
City. —

As soon as we heard of
the fire in the Palace at about
8:30 A.M. we hastened
thither, all the people of Dod
Kalgoor too went there with
necessary implements. We
were prevented from going
in to quench the fire. The
Collector of N.W. Nanjanagud has
ordered the Police & Sepoys to
shoot us. The latter accordingly
began to load their guns &
we had to retreat.

When a big chaffar was put
up in the Palace for the marriage
the responsible officers failed
to keep a supply of water ready
for use in case of fire

From the morning of the
fire on the 28th for an hour & a
half (or till half past one?)
the water-supply had been
turned off. This resulted in
heavy loss in the Palace,
which we deplore. No water
been let into the Palace as
soon as the fire was observed,
so much havoc would not
have been caused. We there-
-fore beg that our evidence
may be taken in the presence
of the Palace authorities.

ਸਾਰਾ ਸੰਸਾਰ ਸੰਸਾਰਾ ਸੰਸਾਰ ਸੰਸਾਰ ਸੰਸਾਰ

(1) ಮೊದಲು ಅಕ್ಷರ ಮತ್ತು ಕೊನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಕ್ಷರ.

(2) ಮೊದಲು ಅಕ್ಷರ ಮತ್ತು ಕೊನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಕ್ಷರ

(3) ಮೊದಲು ಅಕ್ಷರ ಮತ್ತು ಕೊನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಕ್ಷರ

(4) ಮೊದಲು ಅಕ್ಷರ ಮತ್ತು ಕೊನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಕ್ಷರ

5 ಮೊದಲು ಅಕ್ಷರ ಮತ್ತು ಕೊನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಕ್ಷರ.

6 ಮೊದಲು ಅಕ್ಷರ ಮತ್ತು ಕೊನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಕ್ಷರ

7 ಮೊದಲು ಅಕ್ಷರ ಮತ್ತು ಕೊನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಕ್ಷರ

ಕನ್ನಡ ಅಕ್ಷರಮಾಲೆ

ಅ ಆ ಇ ಈ ಉ ಊ ಋ ಎ ಏ ಐ ಒ ಓ ಔ ಅಂ ಅಃ

ಕ ಖ ಗ ಘ ಙ

ಚ ಛ ಜ ಝ ಞ

ಟ ಠ ಡ ಢ ಣ

ತ ಥ ದ ಧ ನ

ಪ ಫ ಬ ಭ ಮ

ಯ ರ ಲ ವ

ಶ ಷ ಸ ಹ

ಳ ಕ್ಷ ಜ್ಞ ಱ

puttaraj

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REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE

APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE

THE PALACE FIRE.

I. Introductory.

THIS Committee was appointed by an order of the Government of Mysore, (a *copy of which is attached) dated 3rd March 1897, and commenced its sittings on the following day. The Inquiry proceeded till March 10th, and in the course of it, 71 witnesses were examined, comprising 50 called by the Committee, 7 sent up by the Police as present in the Palace yard when the fire occurred, and 14 who petitioned the Committee and repeated their statements before it. It is believed that no source of information bearing on the matter has been overlooked, and the Committee have considered every theory, in whatever way brought to their notice, so far as it might give a clue to the discovery of facts.

Vide Appendix I.

2. The order of reference defined the duty of the Committee in the following words.—"To enquire into, and to report upon, the cause of the outbreak of fire at the Mysore Palace on the forenoon of Sunday, the 28th February 1897, and the circumstances attending it."

The latter part of the Inquiry, namely, into "the circumstances attending" the fire, we have divided thus—

(i). The precautions taken by the Responsible Officers before the Fire.

(ii). The action taken by those Officers immediately after the fire broke out.

II. Description of the part of the Palace destroyed.

3. The extent of the block which has been burnt will be seen at a glance from Plan I, in which it is marked with a red dotted line, and the portions comprised will be sufficiently described as—

(i). The Ambavilas or new Durbar Hall.

(ii). The Balakhana on the ground floor with the Sitavilas Terrace above.

(iii). The Savari Totti, under which name we include the whole of the main inside Court-yard, and not merely the Circus Pavilion, which stands in it.

(iv). The Music Gallery, with Organ Room, Library and Amroury adjoining, and an open terrace and the Hosa Divankhana above.

(v). The whole frontage of the Palace, with the Sajje or Dasara Durbar Hall and the three storeys above rising to the golden Kalasa.

4. It will be shown further on that the fire originated in the Marriage Pandal which had been, (as usual on such occasions) constructed over the whole of the Savari Totti, and it is necessary to describe this Court-yard and the decorations which existed on the 28th February.

5. Approaching through the Elephant Gateway, which is a passage 38½ feet long, by 9 feet broad, one entered the Savari Totti (100 feet × 92 feet) from under a fourteen-foot verandah, running on the north to the Sajjé and Music Gallery staircase, and on the south to the Ghanté Pahara. From the Ghanté Pahara a corridor led on to the Bidadi Gateway, and a staircase went up to a passage opening into the Ambavilas. The Balakhana was a kind of hall, 48 feet deep, divided into three arcades by rows of pillars, and reaching from the Savari Totti, of which it formed the southern side, back to the wall of the Ambavilas. For the marriage ceremonies the Balakhana had been extended by the construction of a platform, 21 feet 6 inches broad, up to the edge of the Circus Pavilion. On this platform was the Marriage Mantap, made of talc and paper, and teak pillars supported a temporary hipped roof, made of bamboos and cocoanut leaves. The construction of the whole will be clear on reference to the Cross Section, Plan IV. Another temporary hipped roof, it appears, sprang from the pillars of the temporary platform and rested on the conical top of the Circus Pavilion; and from the point where they met, on a level with the second storey, the flat roof of the Pandal began, and extended over the whole of the Savari Totti. The Pandal was supported at a height of 30 feet from the ground, by a number of teak and areca palm poles, and was also fastened to the eaves of the second storey on three sides of the Court-yard. At the four corners the roof of the Pandal rose into domes about 8 feet above the surrounding level, and the corners of the Circus Pavilion (which was decagonal in shape) were left open for ventilation ~~(see Plan III)~~. The Pandal itself consisted of a frame work of bamboo and areca palm poles, covered with palm leaves and matting, with a ceiling of calico.

6. The poles which supported it were draped with white and red cloth, and the whole Court, with the Circus Pavilion, was profusely decorated with fringes of red cloth and paper garlands hung between the posts and the pillars all round. Including the temporary roof over the extension of the Balakhana with the Pandal, the area of the whole was 11,040 square feet.

~~III. Cause of the Fire.~~

7. After the above description of the portion of the Palace concerned, we come to the question of the cause of the Fire, and will first consider the evidence as to the point where it broke out, and then discuss the theories of Incendiarism, Spontaneous combustion, and accident.

A. POINT WHERE THE FIRE FIRST BROKE OUT.

8. The conflagration took place, as nearly as possible, about 9-30 A. M. according to the opinion of the witnesses generally, (~~see, for example, Nos. 15, 16, 48, and the Controller's evidence~~), and at that hour of the day there were so many persons present in the Savari Totti on duty at the different

*1. The Elephant Gate.
2. The Ghanté Pahara.
3. The Zenana Staircase.
4. The Kannadi Totti Door.
5. The Madanvilas Staircase.
6. The Sajje Staircase.

guards,* and so many were at once attracted by the alarm, that abundant evidence is available about the spot where the fire was first observed. We take it as established beyond doubt that flames were seen first in the ceiling of the Pandal, at a point a few feet to the north of the eaves of the Circus Pavilion, between it and the Music Gallery. ~~[See Wits. 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 24, 27, 48 (the Dewan), 1 (the Controller), and 2 (Mr. Hardaker.)]~~ When first noticed there, the fire was only a small circular patch on the ceiling cloth, so that it is clear that this is the point where it made its appearance, and the flames spread from this one centre only, for no one alleges that fire was ever seen at two or more distinct spots.

~~7.~~ The question next arises—"Was the fire communicated to the ceiling of the Pandal from the Savari Totti, below, or from the outside above?"

"To this also the positive answer can be given, that the fire must have originated above, for the following reason, *viz* :—

"Not one of the many witnesses who were present in the Savari Totti mentions seeing any of the decorations below in flames. And, while it was only by climbing up the festoons between the pillars that fire could have reached the ceiling from below, the improbability of it originating in the Savari Totti is very great, for no light had been burnt in the Circus Pavilion since the evening previous, and it may be here noted, that the 5 oil lamps which were kept lighted during the night in the corners of the Savari Totti, naturally, and as a matter of fact, had been extinguished before that hour of the day. ~~(See Hardaker, and Wit. 8).~~ Further, Mr. Hardaker points out that the festoons in the Circus Pavilion nearest to the point in the Pandal where the fire appeared, were inside the eaves of the Pavilion, which the Plan ~~(No. IV)~~ shows to have been some 12 feet below the ceiling, and not directly communicating with it.

"B. EXAMINATION OF THEORIES.

~~8.~~ "We are now in a position to examine the various theories as to the cause of the fire.

"*i.* INCENDIARISM.

~~9.~~ It may be at once said that only one point has been brought to our notice which might in any way lend itself to suspicion, and that is the alleged failure of certain of the hydrants at the time when the fire broke out. ~~At the first alarm Mr. Hardaker's man ran the fire engine into~~ the Savari Totti without loss of time, and stationed it under the Pandal near the Chaman Gate, where Mr. Hardaker himself took charge of it. His first act was to open the nearest of the three hydrants in the Savari Totti but no water came; he then went to the next hydrant, the one near the Madanvilas door, and opened it, but with the same result. Before the third could be tried, the Pandal fell in, and the engine was abandoned. We must here remark on the error of judgment shown in placing the engine immediately under the burning Pandal, which it was expected to attack. With Mr. Hardaker when he opened the hydrants was the Controller, and both deny that any water at all came.

10. To find an explanation of this failure, the Committee took evidence about both the recent history of these parts

cular hydrants, and the water-supply system in general, which fed them. Reference to the map* will show that there is a valve (marked I) outside the N. W. corner of the Palace near where the pipe which feeds these 3 hydrants leaves the main before it passes in front of the Karikal Totti and round by the Bidadi Gate. Inside the Palace Yard, called the Salgéri (Woman's yard) there is another valve (marked II), by which also the supply to the 3 hydrants could be turned off and on. The existence of this latter valve, it will be noted below, was not known to the Controller or Mr. Hardaker; nor is there any evidence before us that any one ever used this valve which, being inside the Zenana portion, was not ordinarily accessible to men. With regard to the hydrants themselves, there is the evidence of Mr. Hardaker that he had opened one of them 5 days before the fire, on 23rd February, to water the outside of the Palace, and the Controller too says that they were used and found in good order about a week before. No later information as to the state of the hydrants before the 28th is forthcoming; but since the fire (8th March) Colonel Bowen reports that one of these hydrants has been cleared of debris and it is working all right. It is certain therefore that there was no obstruction inside the pipe between the hydrant and the valve, and that for any interruption we must look to the valves instead. As to the outside valve, the Water Inspector (Wit. 12) and his Turnkey (Wit. 40) both say that they inspected it on the day after the Procession, which would be the 25th, three days before the fire, and that the valve was then left open by them for water to flow to the hydrants.

*Plan I.

11. Turning to the general water-system, the Vice-President of the Municipality, who is now responsible for the supply to the whole town of Mysore, (Wit. 39) and the Water Inspector, (Wit. 12) tell us that, as a matter of practice, there is no interruption of the usual supply on Sundays, and that if the water has to be turned off for any repairs to the pipes, notice is first given to the town; further, as a matter of actual fact, the Inspector tells us that on that morning, as soon as he heard of the fire he examined the main, and found the supply of water as full as usual. This seems to have been the case, for other taps and hydrants in the Fort were giving water that morning, with the exception of one tap by Mr. Hardaker's gas room, as to which we can suggest no explanation at all. Evidence has been taken about the following points on the main:—

(1.) The taps in the Bidadi (Wits. 44 and 47).

*(2.) The hydrant before the Elephant Gate.

†(3.) The taps in the private house of Mr. Dalvayi Devaraj Urs close to the Kemmanmatti.

‡(4.) The hydrant by the Bidadi Gate.

(5.) The hydrant in the Karikal Totti garden. (Wit. 45).

*2. (Wit. 7 "There was no water coming, that is, no flow of water." Wit. 46 "a little water, not enough to fill the hose.")

†3. (Wit. 53 "a small quantity of water came till 11 A. M. when it increased").

‡4. (Wit. 46 "a little water, only enough to make a flow up to the door-steps.")

With the exception of the last named, the supply seems to have been everywhere scanty, and at the two hydrants, Nos. (2) and (4), the water apparently only just welled over, but as long as there was any water at all in these pipes it is clear that there was no stoppage of the general supply to the town, to account for the complete failure of the 3 hydrants in the Sawari Totti. When the Water Inspector, on hearing

of the fire, went and turned on the Kaveri water, an abundant supply was available every where, but this was, of course, at a later period than the one we are now inquiring into, when the mains in the part of the town in which the Palace is situated, were, as usual, fed from the Kukarhalli tank only. (See Wits. 12 and 39).

12. The following explanations of the difficulty are possible :—

(i). That Mr. Hardaker and the Controller, in their hurry and confusion, have made a mistake. Supposing that a little water did come in the hydrants, say even to the same extent as in the Kemmanmatti and Bidadi hydrants, (described above) it would be so little as to make it useless for them to attach the hose with any hopes of producing a jet, and being for their purposes, as worthless as no water at all, the impression may have developed in their minds that the hydrants were totally dry. A mistake might easily be made, and if we had to trust for our information to one hurried view in the case of the Kemmanmatti hydrant, as we have to in the case of the Savari Totti hydrants, we should no doubt have been told that there was no water in that also. (See the statements of Mr. VanIngen, Wit. 7, and Shamlal, Mr. Hardaker's servant, Wit. 46).

(ii) Assuming that Mr. Hardaker and the Controller opened the hydrants properly—and were Mr. Hardaker not a trained mechanic it would be possible to suppose that he jammed them in his flurry—and that no water at all came, it must be concluded that some one had turned off either the Salgéri or the outside valve, for the fact that one of these hydrants is now working shows that it was not the pipe which was to blame.

From the evidence of the Vice-President of the Municipality, it appears that the following Palace servants are in possession of the universal keys which fit all the valves—

Mr. Hardaker	..	..	2
Paparam	..	..	1
The Mali	..	..	1

Messrs. Basalingappa and Sham Rao also have keys for the Jaganmohan and Stables respectively. Of Municipal Officers, the Water Inspector and his two Turnkeys have 8 keys jointly; the Kukarhalli tank Watchman has two keys, and there is one in the Jail.

As was to be expected, none of these admit having turned off either the outside or Salgéri valve; and no motive appears for their doing so. Coming to the possibility of some outside person having done it, it can only be said that if a criminal laid himself out to turn off the water in furtherance of a plan to burn down the Palace, such a man would have had little difficulty in stealing, or making a key of such a simple pattern, or in turning the nut of the valve with some other implement. But nothing in the evidence suggests that such an individual existed, and the Committee, while regretting that they have been unable to solve the problem, think that, bearing in mind the feeble head of water which existed in the other pipes close to the Palace on that Sunday morning, the theory which does least violence to the probabilities is the one that a very little water did come in the hydrants, and that no tampering with the Palace supply had taken place at all.

13. Proceeding with the theory of Incendiarism ; we have to consider what means of access existed to the second storey which would have to be reached by any one wishing to light the Pandal from above. The plan* will show that on the south, west, and north sides, the Pandal was surrounded by Zenana quarters : and on the east side was the Sajjé which does not form part of the Zenana. Enquiry proved that the side of the Sajjé, which looked over the Pandal was ascended by only one staircase, in the south-east corner, and that the door of this staircase, which was used solely by those who went up to light the big lamp under the golden Kalasa, was locked and sealed, according to custom, on Saturday night by the Kandilvala, the Gollar, and the Rachevar Havaldar, whose duty it was to see to this jointly. The staircase was never opened in the morning, as the supply of oil in the lamp was so arranged that it burnt itself out before dawn.

*No. III.

We come to the conclusion then that no person could have got to the Sajjé side to throw fire on to the Pandal, and that if it was thrown at all, the incendiary must have been one of the women servants who had access to the other three sides of the Pandal. But, it need hardly be pointed out how great is the improbability of any one running the risk involved in doing such an act after 9 o'clock in the morning, when the same purpose might have been more effectually carried out at night, without fear of observation.

To conclude—On the evidence before them, the Committee consider that there is no reason to believe that the fire was due to incendiarism.

ii. SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION.

14. The Committee have not omitted to weigh this theory, but considering the structure and materials of the Pandal, and the early hour of the day, they do not see how flame could have been produced under the circumstances by either friction, chemical action, or the direct heat of the sun, and must dismiss the theory as almost impossible.

Nor is it probable that there was any object on the outside of the Pandal which could have served as a burning glass to set it on fire, particularly at that early hour of the morning.

iii. ACCIDENT.

15. Sufficient reasons have already been shown for believing that the fire did not originate below the Pandal, but before proceeding to consider the upper parts of the Palace, the possible causes of a conflagration in the Savari Totti may be briefly mentioned, and dealt with.

(*a*). *The lamps.*—These, it has been noted above, were extinguished at day-break.

(*b*). *The Electric Light.*—The engine which worked the dynamos was used only from 6 P. M. to 11 P. M.

(*c*). It has been asserted in some newspapers that the boiling of coloured water was going on on the Sunday morning for the Vasanta ceremony. On this point the evidence of the Controller is conclusive, *viz.*, that there was no place for boiling water in the Savari Totti, and that neither the Vasanta nor any other ceremony was to be held either on the Sunday or Monday.

16. Coming to the portion of the Palace above the Pandal which reached up to the level of the second storey, reference to the plan* shows that it was surrounded by open terraces on every side except the Sajjé, that is, the east front which need not be further considered, for, as pointed out above, it was shut up and uninhabited. The rooms on the north side were sitting rooms, which were not in constant use, but on the west, the Pandal was bounded by terraces above the Zenana living portion all along from the Madanvilas to the Krishnavilas, and on the south, by a terrace leading from the Sitavilas Devarmané (which was used as a waiting room for maid servants) to a room on S. W. corner which was in daily use for boiling milk.

*No. III.

17. Before dealing with the evidence about this room, we will advert to a theory that the conflagration may have been connected with the careless disposal of charcoal used for drying the hair of one of the ladies after an oil bath. The evidence of the two serving women (Wits. 55, 56) shows that the third Princess did have an oil bath on that morning, but that her hair was dried with a cloth and not by heating over a fire, and as this operation was conducted on the first storey, below the level of the roof of the Pandal, even if fire had been used, it would be necessary to suppose that the embers were taken upstairs and thrown over the parapet wall, before the conflagration could be accounted for in this manner.

18. The milk-boiling room presents far more serious cause for suspicion. As stated, this room was in the angle of the south and west terraces, at a distance of about 20 feet from the nearest point of the Pandal. For the purpose of the marriage festivities, the Maramat Bakshi states that he had put up a Chappar, between 5 and 6 feet high, running the whole length of the south terrace, as far as the boiling-room, for the use of Zenana ladies. ~~(See plan IV, the Cross Section).~~ This Chappar does not seem to have had any connection with the conflagration, but was in itself a danger, so close to the kitchen.

It must be noted that Plans II, III and IV are drawn from the memory of the Controller, Durbar Bakshi, and, Palace Maramat Mukhtesar, (generally known as the Maramat Bakshi) as no detailed plans of the Palace are in existence.

The Zenana Sheristedar ~~(Wit. 5)~~ states that about 80 or 100 seers of milk were boiled in this room for the use of the whole Zenana Establishment, and that boiling went on all day, but the two women ~~(Wits. 9 & 10)~~ actually employed on this duty, say that they boiled for Her Highness only, and give the amount at 26 or 27 seers in the day. Putting the stories of the two women together we may take it that the milk for boiling had been brought on this Sunday before the fire broke out, and though Wit. 9 says that she had not yet lighted the kitchen fire, Wit. 10 says that it was the custom to light the ovens about 9 A. M. or 10 A. M. To do this, both agree that fire had to be brought, as Wit. 10 says, from the kitchen in the Kaman Totti, down stairs, for they kept no matches. ~~(*Vide* Zenana Sheristedar, Ranga Rao, Wit. 5)~~. Of course, Wit. 9, the woman in charge of the boiling on that day, denies that her fire had been lighted, before the conflagration took place, and such a denial was only to be expected when she saw that her kitchen was under suspicion, but it is clear that in the ordinary routine, the kitchen fire would have to be lighted about the hour at which the conflagration occurred. To bring the fire from the Kaman Totti to the kitchen, the woman would pass through the old Namtirtha Totti or Krishnavilas and would emerge on to the terrace at a door

See Plan I.

(It may be remarked, by the way, that ths woman is herself burnt on one arm, and we are of opinion that she could throw far more light on the whole matter than she chooses to do).

See evidence of Wit. No. 10.

marked on the map,* and would have to pass for about 50 feet along the open terrace, and up a few steps before turning into the door of the kitchen. When at these short steps, she would be about 8 feet only from the corner of the Pandal. The method used by all native servants in carrying fire is familiar; either glowing charcoal is carried on a tile, or a bundle of burning sticks is taken in the hand. The danger of a live spark being wafted by the wind from such burning wood or charcoal over the open terrace in the direction of the Pandal, or in any other direction, is at once obvious, and the distance of the spot† where the Pandal was first seen from below to be on fire from the nearest point in the line along which the woman must have passed will be seen by the plan‡ to be only about 80 feet.

*Marked thus × (in blue ink), Plan III.

†Marked thus × (in red ink), Plan III.

‡III.

~~19.~~ It is, of course, impossible for the Committee to say with certainty either that the woman did actually carry fire on the fatal Sunday, or if she did, that a spark from it set fire to the Pandal, but what they must lay stress on is, that the evidence in connection with this Kitchen discloses the existence of a set of circumstances which might, on any morning of the year, have caused a conflagration in the Palace, and which, while this vast area of inflammable Pandal existed in close proximity, can only be described as eminently dangerous.

20. The danger arising from the situation of this Kitchen had attracted the attention of the Controller, some time before, as he admits, but he contented himself with warning the Zenana Sheristedars and others to be careful, and the Committee are of opinion that he was guilty of a grave neglect of duty in not bringing the matter to the notice of Her Highness the Maharani herself.

~~21.~~ It is only in connection with the milk-boiling kitchen that any evidence of fire having been actually used on the terraces above the Pandal, has come to our notice, but it is needless to point out that this room by no means exhausts the possibilities of danger. A mere statement of the dimensions of the Pandal (11,040 sqr. feet)—an unprotected mass of inflammable material—surrounded on three sides by dwelling quarters inhabited by a large number of women-servants is sufficient to suggest continual risks of fire in a dozen ways, and the fact that there was a parapet wall some 6 feet high, which hid the Pandal from the women on the terrace, while at first sight seeming a security, may have proved the opposite by causing them to forget at moments the existence of the danger on the other side. Nor must we overlook altogether the possibility of a spark being carried up by the wind from the houses of the Fort, which approach close to the Palace, particularly on the southern side.

See Plan V.

~~22.~~ To sum up.—The Committee record it as their opinion that the Pandal was accidentally lighted from above, and while the circumstances make it possible for the fire to have originated from many sources, they are of opinion that the most probable cause was the carrying of open fire to the milk-boiling Kitchen.

IV. Circumstances attending the Fire.

23. We come now to the second stage, *viz.*, an enquiry into "the circumstances attending" the fire, and, as said above,

we have interpreted this to mean an enquiry into the action of the responsible Palace Officers before and after the fire. Dealing with what preceded the conflagration we have to examine—

(*a*) The normal precautions against fire.

(*b*) The special precautions taken on the occasion of the marriage.

A. NORMAL PRECAUTIONS.

24. (i). *Water-supply.*—It appears that the following hydrants existed in the Palace limits :—

(*a*) One in the Salgéri yard.
(*b*) Three in the Savari Totti.
(*c*) Two in the Kemmanmatti.
(*d*) One near the Bidadi entrance.
(*e*) One near the Theatre entrance.

So far as these went they were good, but the Committee think that they were insufficient, and that when the Palace water-system was being considered more hydrants should have been placed, so as to command fully any spot where fire might break out. The extremely poor supply in the pipes, until the Kaveri water was turned on, has been already commented upon, but for this the apparently inadequate scale of the town-system, when Kukarhalli water alone is used, rather than the Palace authorities, was to blame. The latter, however, would have been wiser to arrange for Kaveri water being laid on, at any rate, during the marriage festivities.

25. (ii). *Fire Engines and Appliances.*—There was only one small Fire Engine (a steam one) in the Palace, and when this was put out of action in the first 10 minutes, no means of throwing a jet of water remained. The Committee are perhaps not going beyond their province, if they record their opinion that at least four powerful steam engines are needed for a building of the size of the Mysore Palace, and as not less than 10 minutes would probably be reguired to get up steam, these should be supplemented by a few manuals. With regard to pots and buckets, it appears that there was no provision of these for use in case of fire, and miscellaneous vessels had to be collected from any quarter, with a waste of time, which was invaluable at the beginning of the out-break.

26. (iii). *Responsibility.*—From the evidence of the Controller and Mr. Hardaker, it appears that no one was responsible for seeing that the water-supply system of the Palace as a whole was in working order, or for taking special measures to prevent fire. So far did this absence of responsibility go, that neither of the two Officers named were even aware of the existence of the Salgéri valve, till the Committee discovered it. It follows naturally that no staff had been told off with special duties in case of fire occurring.

B. SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS.

27. The only measure in the way of special precautions suggested by the special danger of the marriage decorations, was the provision of the three hydrants in the Savari Totti, and this had been done after the Royal marriage in 1896. Before reflecting on the want of foresight shown by those

responsible, the Committee have had to consider in their own minds what precautions might reasonably have been expected under the circumstances. The immunity enjoyed by similar pandals erected from time to time during nearly half a century had resulted in the fear of fire occurring to no one, and even if it had been thought of, it is hard to see what really effective protection could have been provided against a fire of such magnitude, without building large storage tanks on the terraces, and this would probably have required special structural additions to support the weight. The necessity of reckoning with the danger from such Pandals is a point which will doubtless engage the attention of the architect who rebuilds the Palace. But, apart from permanent measures, such as tanks on the terraces, the Committee think that, at any rate, the following simple precautions (which possibly might have nipped the fire in the bud) should have been maintained from the time that the Pandal was constructed, *viz* :—

(i) Special men, or if not men, then women, should have been appointed to watch the Pandal from above.

(ii) Special fire-watchmen should have been detailed to observe the Pandal and Marriage decorations in the Savari Totti.

(iii). A large number of buckets of water should have been kept ready on the terraces above the Pandal, and a manual fire engine ready for use—had such a thing existed—would obviously have been of great service.

C. ACTION OF THE RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE FIRE BECAME KNOWN.

28. The second part of "the circumstances attending" the fire, we take to be the action of the responsible officials immediately after the fire became known. Only a short period of time is in question, for the suppression of the flames depended entirely on the energy of the measures adopted within the first, say, 15 minutes, and we do not regard it as within the scope of our inquiry to consider the action of any one at a later stage when the fire had got beyond control. Only three important Palace Officers were on the spot, the Controller, the Durbar Bakshi, and the Maramat Bakshi, and as our enquiry deals with the very first stage of the fire alone, it is necessarily limited to these three. No concerted measures were taken by them, and we will examine the individual action of each separately.

29. (i). *The Controller.*—Mr. Sitaram Rao was with the Dewan, the Durbar Bakshi, and the Maramat Bakshi in the Madanvilas, looking at the jewels brought by a merchant, when the alarm was given, and running along the Music Hall Gallery and down the stairs, he came into the Savari Totti by the Chaman Gate. The sight that met his eyes was a patch of fire about 2 yards in length and one yard in breadth in the ceiling cloth of the Pandal, immediately to the north of the Circus Pavilion, and we may take it, therefore, that he arrived on the spot when the fire was in a very early stage. Following his statement, his first action was to assist Mr. Hardaker to open the two hydrants in the Savari Totti, but by the time that the stand-pipe was fixed on the second hydrant, the sides of the small dome in the Pandal above fell in. The Controller then ran upstairs to the Madanvilas to take care of the 4 or 5 lakhs worth of jewels which the

merchant had brought, and never returned to the scene of the fire in the Savari Totti, but went on to the State Jewel Room. In his own language, he took no other measure for arresting the fire, beyond looking to the two hydrants, and he did not give orders for any measures to be taken.

30. The above accurately represents the substance of the Controller's own story, and on it the Committee think it obvious that he at once abandoned his chief duty, which was to try to put out the fire, or failing that, to prevent its spreading. With his special knowledge of the composition of the Pandal, it was the duty of an Officer in the position of the Palace Controller, to remain by the fire and direct strenuous efforts to putting it out. Had his efforts failed, no one would have blamed him under the circumstances, but the absence of all effort cannot be excused. His reason for leaving the Savari Totti was, he says, to take care of the merchant's jewels, as ordered by the Dewan, but even if the latter bore him out that such an order was given, (which he does not) it was the duty of the Controller to delegate the charge of the valuables to some one else and immediately return to the fire. He also states that he left the Savari Totti because the fire was spreading so fast that he thought it was useless to attempt to save it. This view of the situation may have been correct, and would have justified his leaving the Savari Totti in order to call in aid, and take immediate measures to prevent the fire extending to the Ambavilas, or other sides, but did not justify him in going away altogether from where the fire was burning.

31. A large body of witnesses have stated that when the fire first broke out they were prevented from entering the Elephant Gate of the Savari Totti, (and some add, the Bidadi Gate as well) by Sepoys and Palace servants acting under the orders of the Controller, and by the Controller himself.

When questioned about this, the Controller said—"I do not remember issuing orders to the guards to keep out the people at the gates. I don't remember at this stage whether I did, or did not issue orders to keep the people out . . . . I do not remember whether the question of either calling in people, or excluding them, engaged my attention in the Savari Totti; I may have given orders on the subject."

He also states that he did not show himself in front of the Elephant Gate till about two hours later. A great deal of the evidence of the witnesses is open to criticism, but the effect of the Controller's statement is to support their main story, rather than otherwise, for he cannot say positively that he did not keep the people out, and it really seems from his confused account that he may have been in such a state of excitement as not to know what he was doing at the time. The Committee cannot but come to the conclusion that, as a matter of fact, the people at the Elephant Gate were kept out by the Controller and his Sepoys. It is very doubtful if they were excluded by him at the Bidadi Gate.

32. The important question then arises—whether it was a wise or unwise measure to keep out the people from the Savari Totti. It would have been quite open for the Controller to argue that he was right to bar the gates, but he does not take this line, and having no assistance from him, we find it hard to pronounce on the point without the knowledge which only eye witnesses could possess.

The evidence on this point may be classified thus :—

(*a*) Two of the Barr Sepoys in the Savari Totti (Wits. 14, 15).

(*b*) Two women (Wits. 23, 24)

(*c*) Seven witnesses from Dod Holgeri, (29-35) men who were in the Palace Yard when the fire occurred. These came forward, on the Committee telling the Supt. of Police that they were willing to hear the evidence of any one who was present at the beginning of the conflagration.

(*d*) Fourteen witnesses, (54, 57-69) being mostly merchants living near the Jagannmohan Palace, who sent a petition to the Committee and repeated their statement before it.

(*e*) Mr. Hughes (Wit. 11), Supt., Zoological Gardens, who arrived early on the scene, saw the Controller outside the gate, and had to get his permission to go in.

There seems little doubt that a considerable number of people gathered at once on the alarm of fire, for many, like the Dod Holgeri betel-leaf farmers, must have come to the Palace Yard, to see the marriage decorations. It is also probable that numbers of these were ready and willing to do what they could in putting out the fire, though obviously the estimate of men outside in the open as to what was possible inside, in the flaming court, is of little value. It has been suggested that if these men had been called in at the earliest moment, they might have brought down the Pandal, by cutting the poles which supported it. As to this, our opinion is that the only way to have let down the Pandal would have been the almost impracticable one of cutting it from above, where it was attached all round to the second storey, and that to have called men in to cut the poles underneath the burning Pandal before it fell in, would have been accepting a very grave responsibility indeed, as the attempt would have very likely resulted in the burning of many people. Nor, considering the stoutness of the poles, the lack of cutting implements, and the amazing rapidity of the fire, do we think that such an attempt would have met with success.

33. When after a short time the Pandal did fall in, the poles which had supported it naturally fell this way and that, slanting against the surrounding galleries of the Court, and carried the flames up into the windows of the first storey. One witness—Mr. Hughes (11)—gives it as his opinion, that at this moment men might have dragged out the burning areca palm and other poles, and prevented the communication of the flames to the permanent buildings, but even according to his own showing, this was possible for a few minutes only, and we hesitate to either endorse or reject his view. The evidence, however, shows that when the Pandal was wholly or in large part down, men did go into the Savari Totti, and some (See Wit. 11) passed along the verandah on the east to the Ambavilas, in safety. It seems probable that some attack could then have been directed on the flaming portions from below, but the Controller made no use of the fact that men could now enter (which was demonstrated by their rushing in, in spite of him—Wits. 14 & 15), and, as throughout, he attempted nothing.

34. To sum up:—The situation was an exceedingly difficult one. If the Controller did keep the people out from the Savari Totti, as we believe he did,—and supposing that he acted on the reasoning suggested above for him—he may or may not have been guilty of an error of judgment, but at the most, the Committee consider this as far less worthy of remark than his failure to attack the flames, and his early departure from the scene of the fire, as described in his own statement.

35. (*ii*). *The Durbar Bakshi.*—Mr. H. Lingaraj Urs arrived in the Savari Totti at the same early stage as the Controller, and proceeded to help to unwind the hose. Meanwhile, the dome in the N. E. corner of the Pandal came down, and caused the engine to be abandoned. The Durbar Bakshi then left the scene of the fire by the Chaman Gate, and calling for help, ran to the door outside the Madanvilas (the Wolabagalu), and asked the guard for water pots, but found none. He then went to the Madanvilas to inform Her Highness the Maharani, but she had gone.

According to a supplementary statement which Mr. H. Lingaraj Urs has asked leave to make to the Committee (see his re-examination on March 19th), he was at this time told that the Yuvaraj and another boy were missing, and he went to several rooms in search of them, before he was informed that they had been found. He next began to remove things from the Lakshmivilas, and made one excursion to the Organ Room to tell people to remove things from there. After continuing to rescue valuables from the Lakshmivilas for a time, he organized the servants, and poured water from the Zenana terrace to prevent the fire spreading to the Madanvilas. Reviewing the action of this Official, the Committee think that he did not sufficiently grasp the immediate necessities of the situation. We consider that having gone back to the Zenana quarters he was right to personally look for the Yuvaraj, (*vide* his supplemental statement); but the time thus spent cannot have been more than a very few minutes, as the Yuvaraja's Dressing room and the Doll rooms where he looked are all close to the Madanvilas, and after searching these he heard of the boys being found. But we are of opinion that his next proceeding, *viz.*, the personal removal of things from the Lakshmivilas was, under the circumstances, an unnecessary waste of time, seeing that, as he says, Mr. M. Kantaraj Urs, Mr. Lingaraj Urs (the Commandant of the Body Guard), Mr. Narainraj Urs and Ursu ladies, were found already attending to their removal. The subsequent pouring of water from the Zenana terrace was a correct measure to take, and if the Durbar Bakshi had thus addressed himself to attacking the fire from the very first, his action would not have been open to criticism.

36. (*iii.*) *The Maramat Bakshi.*—He too arrived in the Savari Totti at the same time as the Controller, and Durbar Bakshi. His action is simply described—he ran away in search of men, and did not return to the scene of the fire within the limited period into which we are inquiring. As one intimately acquainted with the nature of the Pandal, and the consequent necessity for immediate action, he cannot be absolved from failure to grasp the situation.

37. To conclude:—We must once more repeat our opinion that the fierceness of the sudden conflagration, and the want of water, made the position a most difficult one for these Officers to be placed in, but, while no one would have blamed them for their efforts failing, it was their first duty to remain by the fire, and to make efforts of some kind to put it out, or to prevent its extending to the rest of the Palace.

MYSORE,
24th March 1897.

P. N. KRISHNAMURTI, Member of State Council. } *Chairman.*

C. BOWEN, Colonel, R. E., Chief Engineer.
S. M. FRASER, I. C. S., Tutor and Governor to H. H. the Maharaja of Mysore.
DALAVAYI DEVARAJ URS. } *Members.*

Appendix I.

Proceedings of the Government of Mysore.

No. 90-94—D. C., dated Camp Mysore, 3rd March 1897.

Order.—The Government of Mysore resolve to appoint a Committee composed of the Officers named in the margin, to enquire into, and to report upon, the cause of the out-break of fire at the Mysore Palace on the forenoon of Sunday the 28th February 1897 and the circumstances attending it.

1. Mr. P. N. Krishnamurti, Member of State Council. — Chairman.
2. Colonel C. Bowen, R. E., Chief Engineer. — Members.
3. Mr. S. M. Fraser, Tutor and Governor to His Highness the Maharaja (with the Resident's consent). — Members.
4. Mr. Dalavayi Devaraj Urs. — Members.

2. The Committee will be requested to hold the enquiry at some convenient place in or near the Palace and to submit its report to Government at the earliest possible date.

C. SREENIVASIENGAR,
Secy. to Govt., Genl. Department.

To—Mr. P. N. Krishnamurti, Member of State Council.

Colonel C. Bowen, R. E., Chief Engineer.

Mr. S. M. Fraser, Tutor and Governor to His Highness the Maharaja.

Mr. Dalavayi Devaraj Urs.

The Palace Controller, with a request that he will place the Upstairs of Karikal Totti at the disposal of the Committee and give them necessary Peons.

LIST OF WITNESSES EXAMINED.

No.			Page.	By whom called.
1.	(*i*).	**The Controller**	1	The Committee.
	(*ii*).	„	2	
	(*iii*).	„	4	
2.	(*i*).	**Mr. Hardaker**	4	
	(*ii*).	„	5	
	(*iii*).	„	5	
	(*iv*).	„	5	
3.		**Sergeant-Instructor Gibbs**	6	
4.		**Ramakrishnappa,** Zenana Mokhtesar ..	6	
5.	(*i*).	**Ranga Rao,** Zenana Sheristedar ..	6	
	(*ii*).	„ „	7	
6.		**Mr. Chik Lingaraj Urs,** Maramat Bakshi ..	7	
7.		**Mr. VanIngen**	8	
8.		**Subbanna,** Daffedar of the Kandilmané ..	8	
9.	(*i*).	**Madavva,** Employed in the boiling-room ..	8	
	(*ii*).	„ „ „ ..	9	
10.		**Lingakka,** Serving in the milk-boiling room ..	9	
11.		**Mr. Hughes**	9	
12.	(*i*).	**Annadore Iyer,** Water-supply Inspector.	10	
	(*ii*).	„	10	
13.		**Bahadur Singh,** Subedar	10	
14.		**Hanuman Singh,** Sepoy of the Barr guard.	10	
15.	(*i*).	**Sivalal,** Sepoy	11	
	(*ii*).	„	11	
16.		**Abdul Gunni**	11	
17.		**Ranoji,** Barr Naik	11	
18.		**Venkat Naidu,** Sepoy	12	
19.		**Mari,** Sepoy	12	
20.		**Subba Naik,** Halé Paiki Volékar on duty outside the Ané Bagalu	12	
21.		**Timma,** Volékar on duty at the Ané Bagalu ..	12	
22.		**Havildar Muniya,** Volékar ...	13	
23.		**Kalyanamma**	13	
24.		**Hutchamma**	13	
25.		**Jamal Khan,** Naik	13	
26.		**Ali Beg,** Seopy	13	
27.		**Venkataramana,** Volékar	13	
28.		**Mahomed Khan,** Sepoy	13	
29.		**Putyalakki,** Betel-leaf Gardener, Dod Holgéri ..	14	Sent up by the Police as present in the Palace yard when the fire occurred.
30.		**Chik Haida,** Betel-leaf Gardener, Dod Holgéri	14	
31.		**Putta,** Betel-leaf Gardener, Dod Holgéri ..	14	
32.		**Bade Linga,** Betel-leaf Gardener, Dod Holgéri	14	
33.		**Kempa Rama,** Betel-leaf Gardener, Dod Holgéri	14	
34.		**Javara** of the Dod Holgéri.	14	
35.		**Devangada Dasi,** Mendicant	15	

No.		Page.	By whom called.
36.	**Mr. Krishna Iyer**	15	
37.	**Venkatramanaiya,** Zenana Sheristedar ..	15	
38.	(*i*). **Mr. H. Lingaraj Urs,** Durbar Bakshi..	15	
	(*ii*). „ „	16	
39.	(*i*). **Mr. H. Nanjundaraj Urs,** Vice-President, Municipality	17	
	(*ii*). „ „	17	
40.	**Virabhadra**	18	
41.	**Bettaiya,** Kandilvala..	18	
42.	**Viraiya,** Gollar	18	
43.	**Dasi,** Rachévar Havildar	18	
44.	**Chendrasekharaiya,** Bidadi Clerk ..	18	The Committee.
45.	(*i*). **Mali Voba**	19	
	(*ii*). „	19	
46.	**Shamlal**	19	
47.	**Gangaiya,** Waterman	19	
48.	**The Dewan**	19	
49.	**Mr. Muddaraj Urs,** Bidadi Bakshi ..	20	
50.	**Puttu Setti,** Waterman	20	
51.	**Gurupadaiya** of the Khás Nirmané ..	20	
52.	**Chamakka**	20	
53.	**Somappa,** Dressing-boy of Mr. Dalavayi Devaraj Urs	20	
54.	**Ashraf Meeah,** Trader	20	Petitioner—(*Vide* remark against 57—69.)
55.	**Siddavva,** Zenana service	21	
56.	**Nanjamma** of the Zenana	21	The Committee.
57.	**Naganna,** Rice Merchant..	21	
58.	**Pommanna,** Rice Merchant	21	
59.	**Janardhana Murti,** Gumasta of Honnagiriyappa, Merchant	21	
60.	**Honnagiriyappa,** Merchant	21	
61.	**Chikka Timmappa,** Rice Merchant ..	22	
62.	**Linga Setti,** Oil-monger, Rice Merchant ..	22	Petitioners to the Committee sent up by the Police.
63.	**Magadi Krishna Setti**	22	
64.	**Kamaiya**	22	
65.	**Puttaiya**	22	
66.	**Ramanna**	22	
67.	**Nilaiya**	22	
68.	**Thotoji Rao**	22	
69.	**Kenchaiya**	22	
70.	**Chanraju,** Rachévar on guard at the Lakshmivilas	23	
71.	**Venkatramana,** Gollar of the Lakshmivilas Gate	23	The Committee.

Appendix III.

STATEMENT OF WITNESSES EXAMINED.

1. The Controller.

4th March 1897.

(*i*). On the 3rd storey the kitchen is under the control of Ramakrishnappa and his three assistants. An open terrace extends the whole length on the western side, and the kitchen is on the south-west corner.

The whole of the decorations were put up under my supervision.

The top of the Pandal was almost on a level with the 2nd floor. Round the Circus Stand temporary supports were put up to carry the Pandal up to the said level. The top of the roof of the Circus Stand which was conical was probably of the same level as the top of the Pandal. For the Pandal, the supports were of arecanut and teak poles. The frame-work of the top of the Pandal was of cocoanut-matting and bamboos. Under the Pandal was the ordinary calico or ceiling cloth. The supports had been covered round with strips of cloth. Fringes of red cloth were hung between the poles and the pillars all round, and divided into bays.

There were four domes at the angles, made up of the same materials as the Pandal, and higher by about 8 feet than the roof of the Pandal.

The Balakhana was extended by the construction of a platform running the whole length on the south side, 21 feet 6 inches broad. About half the length of the platform was made up of bricks where the marriage-fire stood, and the other half of boards supported by beams and joists with a coat of mortar. On this platform were teak pillars supporting a temporary hipped roof springing from slightly above the Pandal, the roof being made of cocoanut leaves and bamboos. On the west side of the temporary platform was the Marriage Mantap made of talc and paper, &c.

Both the staircases leading to the Zenana were screened with cloths. The Circus Totti was fringed between the pillars with paper garlands, and over all the court there were paper and cloth decorations in profusion.

There were two gas jets in the Balakhana of 4 lights each and two in the Circus Pavilion supplied with gas by a pipe running under-ground as far as the north gate, and then passing over the slabs at the gateway, and thence going under-ground to the Engine-Room, 48 feet from the gate. As far as I know there was no more gas used. In the Circus Pavilion there were two kerosine lamps hanging from the centre of each of the bays of the octagon, of about 80 candle-power, I think. In the centre hangs a big chandelier with candles. The temporary platform was lighted with candle-chandeliers, and the Balakhana with electric lights; the Marriage Mantap also with electric lights. The rest of the Savari Totti had candle-chandeliers and globes. Mr. Hardaker is in charge of the lighting of this portion. As Controller, I am supposed to control

the lighting department, but I do not hold myself directly responsible. The masalchis and servants take their orders direct from their departmental head. The lighting arrangements were not put up under my direction. There are two branches of the lighting department—one under Mr. Hardaker and the other under the Zenana Samukha Sheristedar. The latter is under my orders, so far as the accounts and stores are concerned. The whole of the ground floor lighting was in the hands of Mr. Hardaker. On the ground floor as well as on the upstairs the duty of putting out the lights belonged to the Zenana Sheristedar. On this special occasion this was done by Mr. Hardaker on the ground floor.

During the last marriage three hydrants were placed in the Savari Totti. The box of each has to be unlocked and a stand-pipe screwed on, and a nut turned with a key before the water can rise. At the time of the fire the boxes were locked and the stand-pipes were in the Store Room. Mr. Hardaker is in charge of these hydrants. There were no other sources of water-supply within the Savari Totti. There were no taps on the second and third floor except in Hardaker's room and in Madanvilas Totti, but the water does not rise in the day time. There are two hydrants outside the gate at the Kemmanmatti under the Municipal Overseer. The near one is generally not locked.

There is a small fire-engine kept in the Store Room in charge of Mr. Hardaker.

The general decorations and pandals were the same as on the last marriage, and designed by me. I did anticipate danger of fire, and therefore had the hydrants put up. I had them put up at the first marriage. I thought the three inside and the one outside sufficient to meet the danger. It did occur to me that the cooking upstairs would be dangerous, and I often warned Venkatramanaiya, Subbanna and Ranga Rao, Zenana Sheristedars, and asked them to intimate the danger to Her Highness and ask for permission for the removal of the kitchen downstairs. After the first marriage I provided extra kitchen accommodation, *i. e.*, one block of the Kaman Totti on the ground floor, to facilitate the removal of the risk referred to. I do not know whether it was made use of. I have no access to the Zenana apartments during Her Highness' presence in the Palace. The kitchen arrangements upstairs are in the Zenana. As far as I know no male servant has anything to do with them. When any important action has to be taken I have interviews with Her Highness, generally once or twice a week. On the occasion of this marriage I did not bring the apprehended danger from the upstairs-cooking to Her Highness' notice. I orally gave orders to Mr. Hardaker to have the engine and hose ready for the present marriage occasion. On the fire breaking out I was present when Mr. Hardaker opened one hydrant; no water came. About a week before I saw the three hydrants working. About three weeks before the marriage I saw the fire-engine working. I think we had about 200 feet of hose in working order. No extra guards were entertained, or special arrangements made, to guard against a fire The people under Mr. Hardaker work the fire-engine.—Read over.

(*ii*). *Re-examined on the 6th March* :—

There is no place in the Savari Totti under the Music Gallery used for boiling water. As far as I am aware no

coloured water was prepared on the Sunday for the Vasanta ceremony, as neither the Vasanta nor any other ceremony was to take place on that day, or on the following day which was the Sivaratré. I was in the Madanvilas Totti with the Dewan, the Durbar Bakshi and the Maramat Bakshi. It was 9-30. A. M. News of the fire was brought then, and we all ran together along the Music room and down the Sajjé stairs into the Savari Totti and on to the hydrant. I first saw the fire on the edge of the Pandal, immediately to the north of the Circus Pavilion. Only the ceiling cloth was burning. It was a patch of fire about 2 yards in length and 1 yard in breadth. The only way for any one to have reached the Circus Pavilion from above would have been over the Pandal. I then watched Hardaker putting on the stand-pipe near the Sajjé Stairs. No water came. So we ran to the other hydrant near the Madanvilas stairs. By the time that the stand-pipe was fixed the sides of the dome above us fell down. I do not know if the fire had already broken out on the southern side of the Circus Pavilion, as all my attention was directed to the hydrants. I then ran upstairs by the Madanvilas stairs, as directed by the Dewan, to take care of the 4 or 5 lakhs worth of jewels which the merchant had brought for inspection and left there. I thence went to the State Jewel room. I took no other measures for arresting the fire except looking to these two hydrants. I did not direct any measures to be taken to that end. At that moment it struck me only to take care of the jewels and the jewelry room, as there was Mr. Hardaker and others to look after the fire. I did not think it possible to have pulled down the Pandal as the fire spread too quick. If even the temporary teak and arecanut posts had been cut down, the effect would only have been to lower the Pandal, as it was tied to the eaves of the building, and the fire would have spread along it. I did not think it worth while to attempt it. I do not remember issuing orders to the guards to keep out the people at the gates. I don't remember at this stage whether I did or did not issue orders to keep the people out. No one suggested to me that the people wanted to come in. It is the fact that I afterwards went round to the Kemmanmatti. This was after I had seen the State Jewelry safe in the hands of the Dewan and Councillors, and also the Ambavilas jewelry on the top of the Chamundi Totti; also I first brought the jewelry which the Dewan had told me to look after and put it with the State Jewelry. Before going round I also assisted in sending some of the furniture to the temple. It was then that I went round to the Kemmanmatti and issued orders to muster coolies for cutting off flags on both sides. Then I went to the Palace Treasury. It was about 2 hours between my leaving the Savari Totti and going round to the Kemmanmatti. When I got there the people were already going in, and the Khedda Superintendent Mr. Shamaiengar was getting the door shutters removed. There were generally two palanquins kept—one on each side of the gate (corridor) below the Sajjé. I saw one of them being removed. I do not remember whether the question of either calling in people or excluding them, engaged my attention in the Savari Totti; I may have given orders on the subject. I ran inside and left the Savari Totti, because the fire was spreading so fast that I thought it was useless to attempt to save the Savari Totti. It was not until doing all that I have described above that I ever went to the main gate, and showed myself in the Kemmanmatti.—Read over.

(*iii*). *Further examined on the 9th March :—*

I have never seen the valve in the Salgéri yard. I never went into the details of the Palace water-system, but if there was any complaint it was referred to the Municipal authorities, even if it were connected with the pipes inside the Palace precincts. No one was put in charge of the whole system of water-supply within the Palace precincts. I do not know whether the keys which opened the hydrants also worked the separate valves. I got the keys handed over to Mr. Hardaker from Mr. Sundaram Iyer, Assistant Engineer, only with a view to work the pipes in the Savari Totti. The question of precautions against fire in normal times had never arisen in my time. No other special precautions were taken on account of the marriage, except the putting on of the hydrants in the Savari Totti. This measure was suggested by the Pandals and decorations during the marriage of the 2nd Princess. I do not know when that hydrant in the Salgéri yard was broken open. No water at all rose when the hydrant was opened. I can say for certain that the hose was not applied to either hydrant. I do not know of the Mali or any other person having a key of the hydrant. In my time Mr. Hardaker was the only man who had the keys within my knowledge. The room above Mr. Hardaker's tool-room was about the level of the Pandal. It is a corridor leading to the Zillo Cutcherry, but with no windows on the Organ-room side. Above was the Zenana roof. The door leading to the Zillo Cutcherry is kept locked on both sides, generally.—Read over.

2. Mr. Hardaker.

(*i*.) I am Electrician and Mechanic under the Palace Controller. All the lighting in the interior of the Mantap and the Savari Totti and Balakhana on the marriage occasion was in my charge. I put up the lighting myself. There were 3 gas lights in the Balakhana, not 2. For three days before the fire I did not use gas at all on account of the smell. The description read to me of the lighting given by the Controller is correct. The lighting upstairs is in charge of the Zenana Samukha. On the night before the fire there was a Durbar, and all the lights, except the gas, were lighted. I was present when the Durbar was over. All the candles and kerosine lights were put out immediately, and the electric lights were kept on till 11 P. M. During the night the only lights were— 4th March 1897.

1 Kerosine oil lantern at the Ghanté Pahara stairs.
1 One at the Zenana steps, S. W. corner.
1 One (similar) at the passage to the Gombé Totti.
1 Two bracket lamps at the main entrance.

I left the place at quarter to 11 and went to the Engine-Room. The above lights were then burning. The engines to work the electric light stopped at 11 P. M. as usual. They started work again at 6 next evening. The above lights are lighted by the Palace lamp lighters. I am not responsible for putting them out. Ramakrishnappa is responsible. The fire-engine is in my charge and is kept at the corner near the northern entrance. I brought it into the Savari Totti when the fire broke out, but there was no water in the first or in the second hydrant. The Pandal on the Music Room side then came down on to the Engine and the hydrants. The

keys of the hydrants are in my charge. I opened both the hydrant boxes on this occasion. Two days before, I myself saw the hydrants working.—Read over.

(*ii*). *Re-examined on the 5th March* :—

I was in the Madanvilas Totti from 8 A. M. until the fire occurred. Abdul Ganni brought me the news. I went towards the Pandal at once, and just then the fire-engine was pushed past me. I saw the fire at the north-western corner of the Circus Ring. The fire I saw was in the ceiling cloth. As I watched, it broke out as big as an umbrella. The corners of the Circus Pavilion were left open for ventilation. At the point where I saw the fire, the cloth fringe was also on fire. There were only about 4 inches between the cloth and the Pandal. I cannot say what was happening on the south side of the Circus Pavilion, but to the north side this was the only spot alight. By the time I had tried the 2 hydrantsin vain the fire had now spread all about the north of the Circus Pavilion, and part had begun to fall. This occurred in 5 or 6 minutes. There was a crowd at the main door, but none of them came in. When I was at the first hydrant the Durbar Bakshi and the Controller were with me hurrying me on, and the latter followed me to the second.

The fringe referred to did not hang down more than a few inches. There were paper festoons hanging about 3 feet down, between the pillars of the Circus Pavilion, but they were under the projecting eaves. The Pandal was attached to the edge of the eaves. From what I observed the fire must have attacked from outside the Pandal.—Read over.

(*iii.*) *Further examined on the 8th March*:—

I am familiar with the 2 hydrants in the Savari Totti. I opened them, but there was no flow of water. They were not jammed. The one hydrant in front in the Kemmanmatti which had been broken was also opened in vain. I myself saw the ½ inch cock near the gas-room door with the tap knocked off. I went to get a drink; no water came. About an hour and a half afterwards water came freely. I did not go to the hydrant in front of the Bidadi. My men went there. I had used one of the 2 Savari Totti hydrants on the evening of the 23rd to water the yard. It was in good order. I had not seen the hydrant in the Kemmanmatti work for a week. It was about 8 to 10 days before the marriage ceremony one of the hydrants was damaged; while it was being repaired the Municipal Turnkey turned off the supply. But that same hydrant was subsequently used. I do not remember if there was any water in my gas-tap on the morning of the fire. I saw the Controller leave the Savari Totti by the Wolabagalu after trying the 2nd hydrant. I did not see him give orders to keep people back at the gate. I did not see him go to the gate at all. For all I know people may have been kept out, but I did not observe it.—Read over.

(*iv.*) *Further examined on the 9th March*:—

I was not aware of the existence of the valve just pointed out to me till today, but had heard of the hydrants in the Salgéri yard which is on the Zenana side, and I cannot get there without permission. I did not see them when the pipes were laid a year ago after the first marriage. I do

not consider that I was responsible for the water-supply of the Palace generally, but only for the three hydrants in the Savari Totti. I possessed, as far as I know, the only two keys that worked the hydrants and the valves in the Palace. But if a fire had occurred at an ordinary time even, I should not have been responsible for the working of the pipe-system in the Palace. I do not know when the hydrant in the Salgéri was broken open or when water began to flow from it. Mr. Coutes came after the engine had been abandoned on the Pandal falling in. I know nothing of any dynamite being on the engine. Keys were lost in confusion. The tap near the engine-house is supplied from near chowki. No water.—Read over.

3. Sergeant-Instructor Gibbs.

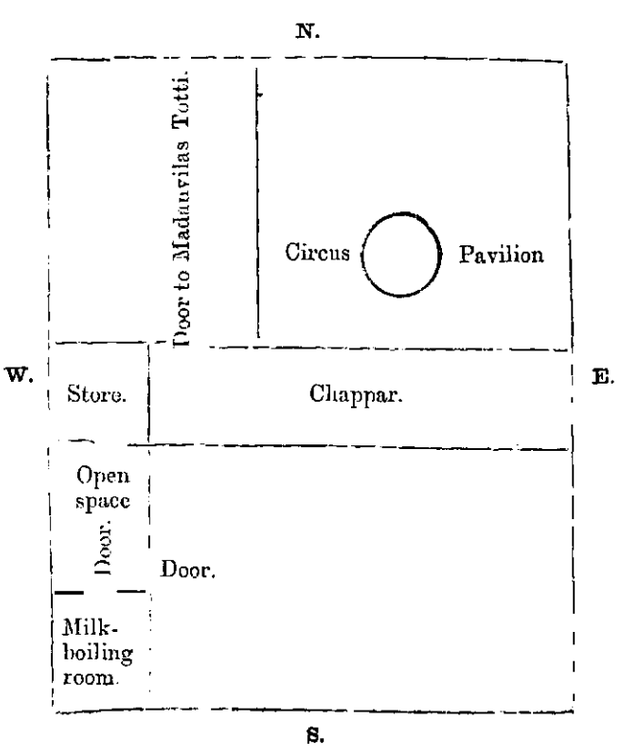
By the time I arrived the Pandal and decorations were falling down. I could only go just inside the gate-way on account of heat.—Read over. 5th March 1897.

4. Ramakrishnappa, Zenana Mokhtèsar.

I am the headman of all the Zenana establishments, and in charge of the Zenana buildings. My assistant Ranga Rao will give information about the third storey.—Read over.

5. Ranga Rao, Zenana Sheristedar.

(*i*). On the third storey, near to the parapet wall, a Chappar was erected the whole length of the south side. In the south-east corner was a waiting-room for women-servants with a temporary Chappar veranda. There were three other waiting-rooms used by maid-servants. A small room near the Sajjé on the south-east corner was formerly used, but it being too small the one on the south-west corner was used instead. No other cooking but boiling milk was done there. About 80 or 100 seers were boiled there every day. Milk would be brought at about 9 A.M. Puttananjavva, Madavva and another were in charge. Two ovens were put up there.



5th March 1897.

It was about 15 feet from the door of the boiling-room to the parapet wall towards the Savari Totti. Firewood was used for boiling. The Chappar over the terrace was about 5 feet high. The other cooking was done in the Kaman Totti down-stairs. The room for boiling milk had a terraced roof with wood ceiling.

The burnt ashes used to be removed down-stairs to the Salgéri. It is more than 15 days since I had been to the place. I cannot go in and out of the Zenana, except under the orders of the Maharani, and the responsibility rests with the maid-servants. I do not know who the head maid-servant is. The Maharani often changes. The Controller did not warn me of any danger of fire, and I did not apprehend any danger. The Controller used to warn us generally to be careful. During the time of the late Controller Mr. Subrayer, on account of a pillar taking fire, the ovens were removed further from the wall. The door of the boiling-room faced north and led to an open space, the door of which faced east, on to the terrace. Daffedar Subbanna was looking after the lighting down-stairs. Cocoanut-oil lamps used to be kept burning upstairs. To light the fire the maids bring fire from outside. They do not keep matches. The lamps are lighted outside and carried in.—Read over.

(*ii*). *Re-examined on the 8th March* :—

I have not seen the door referred to leading to the Sajjé tower opened within the last one year. It is locked. The key is with the Ulagadavaru in the Madanvilas Totti.—Read over.

6. Mr. Chik Lingaraj Urs, Maramat Bakshi.

I put up the Chappar on the 3rd storey of the Balakhana, south side, for the use of the Zenana ladies. I had seen it 8 or 10 days before the marriage. Not since. I do not know if it was used for drying grain. I know the room in the south-west corner used for boiling milk. I do not know whether it was so used at the time of the wedding. The terrace where the kitchen was, was separated from the Savari Totti by a parapet about 7 feet high, rising to about 10 feet in the middle.

There was one long lattice window towards the east end of the terrace. The parapet wall ran round on the west side also, but was a little lower there. For these reasons it did not occur to me that there was possibility of danger from the boiling-room. The Chappar did not come up to the parapet wall. The Chappar ran from the kitchen to the Devaramané on the southern, *viz.*, Ambavilas side of the terrace. The Pandal of the Savari Totti was attached to the bottom of the 7 feet parapet wall. I was with the Dewan and others in the Madanvilas when news was brought of the fire, and from its veranda on the first floor I noticed the ceiling to the north of the Circus Pavilion—cloth portion—on fire. I could not see the south side of the pavilion. The fire, as far as I could see, was confined to a patch about 7 feet in diameter. I ran

down-stairs to the Savari Totti, but did not stay, and ran in search of men. I ran along the north side of the Totti, and when I got there the temporary dome in the north-east corner was already down. I saw Mr. Hardaker pulling out the fire-engine and open the hydrant. It was not more than two or three minutes from the time of the first alarm reaching me. I cannot say whether the fire went from the Circus Pavilion towards the dome, or *vice versa*. The Dewan, the Controller, the Durbar Bakshi, Thawkar, a jewel merchant, were present with me when the alarm of fire was brought. I do not remember what the others did. I saw the Durbar Bakshi in the Savari Totti. I went out by the nearest door (Chaman Gate). I do not mean to say that the fall of the dome blocked the main gate.—Read over. 5th March 1897.

7. Mr. VanIngen.

I got to the Palace at a quarter to 10 A. M. I went to the main door, but could not get in owing to the flames. I went to the hydrant near the gate. The pipe, I found, was already broken to try and get at the water. There was no water coming, *i. e.*, no flow of water.—Read over.

8. Subbanna, Daffedar of the Kandilmané.

I am the head of the lignting establishment consisting of 5 men. I am responsible for the lighting, and putting out the lights. On the night previous to the fire in the Savari Totti, 2 lights were kept burning in the Balakhana; 1 near the Ghanté Pahara; 1 near the Sajjé Pahara; 1 at the Zenana stair. These lights are lighted after the engine stops at 10 P. M. and are put out about 6 A. M. On the following Sunday morning at 6 A. M. two of these lights were put out in my presence. The others had already gone out.—Read over.

9. Madavva,

Employed in the boiling-room.

(*i*). I boil milk in the room on the 3rd storey. There are two ovens in the one room. In the other there are pickles. Milk is issued to us between 9 and 11 A.M. We begin to boil it after 11 A. M. We boil milk only to be curdled. About 12 seers of milk was the quantity boiled every day. On the morning of the fire the milk had come, but I had not yet lighted the fire. I received the milk upstairs from Lingakka. There was no fire, and I had not yet brought it in. Before lighting the fire I have to distribute butter-milk to about 100 Avvérus. After 8 in the night another supply of 14 seers of milk is received. This was boiled by 10 on the Saturday night, and I put out the fire in the oven by throwing water. I saw the room on the Sunday morning. There was no fire there. As I was placing the milk inside, I saw something red. It was fire. I saw the flames in the Savari Totti. The fire extended to the Chappar in front of my own door. I saw the fire from the boiling-room at a distance of about 150 feet. I left the terrace by the door facing north, and leading either to the Sannidhana or the servants' quarters (Salgéri). I was burnt by the inflamed shutters of this door. I was alone when I saw the flame. Lingakka left the place after giving me the milk.—Read over.

(*ii*). *Re-examined on the 8th March* :—

I noticed the fire in the Savari Totti from the threshold of the milk-boiling room. I then turned to go down the door leading to the Salgéri. The smoke was so think that I went down with closed eyes. The inflamed side of one of the domes of the Kudaré Totti had fallen against the door and set it on fire, and I got burnt there. I did not see any one throwing water on the fire, except the women of the Salgéri. The fire in the oven is put out with water, and the ashes are removed every few days by a sweeper woman who comes with a basket for them. On the Sunday morning the sweeper woman did not come for the ashes.—Read over.

10. Lingakka,

Serving in the milk-boiling room.

5th March 1897. Milk is received in the mornings between 8-30 and 9, and in the nights about 8-30. The respective quantities are 13 and 14 seers. We light the fire about 9 or 10 A. M., as we have other work to do first, and the boiling is continued till evening. We light fire again in the evening, and keep boiling till gun fire. We do no other kind of cooking in the room. The milk is all converted into butter for the use of the Sannidhana. It was not my turn for boling milk on the Sunday morning. I received the milk that morning and handed it over to the previous witness who was alone in the room. We usually bring fire from the kitchen in the Kaman Totti. To go there we pass through the door leading to the Zenana. I cannot say whether fire was lighted in the milk-room when I went there that morning. Putnanjavva was not there. The old room was not used for boiling.—Read over.

11. Mr. Hughes.

I was attracted to the Palace by the smoke. I entered by the main entrance. The Pandal had collapsed and fallen in on the Circus Pavilion. There were hundreds of people outside at the entrance, but they could not get in, because a palanquin blocked the entrance. They told me that they were stopped by the Controller. I saw him outside the main entrance. The Controller, on being asked, told me to take in as many men as I could. I took some men with me and went up to the Ambavilas. No one could enter the centre of the Savari Totti as the heat was too much. It is my opinion that if men had entered when I first arrived, they could have saved the building by pulling down the poles which carried the fire up, but that it was too late when I entered with men a few minutes later. I did not see the Controller keeping people out. People told me so. There was nothing to prevent people entering when I first arrived. The Pandal was down on the Balakhana side as well. The fire was too far advanced for me to make out where it originated. When I first arrived a Peon at the entrance tried to stop me, saying that the Controller did not allow any one to go there. At the doorway they were all Palace servants. On this I went to the Controller and obtained his permission to take men in. The Peons would not let me go in. I had to push my way. The palanquin was not removed while I was there. A number of the Maharaja's Bandsmen were among those kept out, and some one asked me in English if they were not to come in and help in saving the building. The Controller was standing quite quiet in the crowd. I am directly under Colonel

Campbell, not under the Palace Controller. There was a general entry of people from all sides when I entered a second time. From the time of my arrival I was delayed in entering for about 7 or 8 minutes. Before I went up to the Controller I spent some time in removing the palanquin.—Read over. 5th March 1897.

12. Annadore Iyer, Water-supply Inspector.

(*i*). There are 3 hydrants in the Savari Totti, 1 in the Salgéri, 1 in the Karikal Totti entrance, 1 at the Bidadi Gate, 2 in the open-square (Kemmanmatti), and 1 at the door of the Engine-room. It was nearly a quarter to eleven when I arrived at the Palace. It was a quarter to ten when I heard of the fire in the Palace. I went to the valve near Marimallappa's School where there is the connection of the Kaveri water with the Kukarhalli water. I stopped the karanji (Kukrahalli) water and let in the Kaveri water to the Palace. I stopped the diversion of the Kaveri water in other directions, and went to Vanti Koppal where I gave instructions by telephone to let in as much water as necessary to the Palace. There was water in the main pipe, and I cannot say why the supply should have failed in the hydrants. There was the usual supply of about 11½ feet of water in the Settling-tank, and it was not the practice to turn off the water on Sundays. Three days before the fire I had seen the valve which feeds the Palace hydrants. It was open. On the Sunday morning I did not see the valve, but the supply came in all right. When I came to the Palace at 10-30 or 10-45 A. M. the supply was all right. The Vice-President had told me that without the orders of Balakrishna Rao, Kaveri water was not to be let in. The supply was given to the town for only one day.—Read over.

(*ii*). *Re-examined on the 8th March* :—

I had been to the valve near Dinachendraiya's house on the morning after the Procession. I saw the water flowing from it. I do not know anything of its having been repaired. —Read over.

13. Bahadur Singh, Subedar.

I came and slept at the main gate on Saturday night. I am Subedar. I was on duty at 9 A. M. on the Sunday. Sepoys, Hanuman Singh and Saligram, gave me the first alarm of fire. They said that the Pandal was on fire. By the time I went in nearly three-fourths of the Pandal was already in flames, and I ran away as the smoke and heat were too much. No one tried to enter. The palanquin-bearers were trying to remove the palanquins. It was impossible, I thought, to pull down the poles which were on fire. I was on duty till 12 noon. I did not call in people collected outside to come and help, as I had no orders to do so.—Read over.

14. Hanuman Singh, Sepoy of the Barr guard.

My turn of duty was from 8 to 10 A. M. on the Sunday. I was on duty with Saligram, outside the Hattidarvaj (Elephant Gate). Sivalal, the guard on the Sunarkhana, came and told me about the fire. The Controller, standing between the Volékar Pahara and the Circus Pavilion, issued orders to us not to let the people in. I heard the order given to us and the men on guard. I remained on guard outside and did not get in to see. The people outside were kept back in obedience to the order, although they were asking to be let in as the

5th March 1897. Maharaja's house was on fire. When the Mantap fell in there was a great rush, and some people went inside. The people were kept out under the order for about a quarter of an hour.—Read over.

15. Sivalal, Sepoy.

(*i*). I was on duty from about 3·30 A.M. to about 10 A.M. on the Sunday. A woman supplying butter-milk to the Bidadi, came from that direction, crying out, fire! fire! I heard her from a distance of 5 or 6 yards. It was long past 9. I saw the fire between the two domes near the Sillekhana. The ceiling cloth was on fire. It was about a yard in diameter. It was one yard from the Arms-Room. The fire was about 5 yards from the Circus Pavilion. I am certain that none of the hanging decorations were on fire, but only the ceiling. Then I shouted out, fire! fire! The Controller and the Durbar Bakshi came down, crying "ಹಾಕಿಸಾಲೋ" (Pour water). There was no water available. Mr. Hardaker was turning the pump, but it would not work. No water rose. The Controller was beating the people, and preventing them from coming in. I also received a beating from him as I shouted out to the other guard to try to put out the fire. He thought I was calling people to come in. When the entire Pandal was on fire people rushed in, in spite of the Controller. The Controller was running about from door to door, confining his efforts to keeping the people out. The people were kept out at the Chaman Gate too. If even 20 men had been allowed to go in when the fire had just commenced, the fire could, in my opinion, have been brought under, by cutting down the poles or cutting off the ropes. The fire spread on all sides from the Arms-Room side.—Read over.

(*ii*). *Re-examined on the 6th March* :—

I saw Hutchamma and Kalyanamma go out from the Ghanté Pahara, past the Savari Totti, and out by the Ané-Bagalu, crying out, fire! fire!—Read over.

16. Abdul Gunni.

I work for wages under Mr. Hardaker. I was preparing the candles near the Circus Pavilion. About 9-30. A.M. Sivalal, a sepoy on guard (already examined), called out, fire! I ran out, and saw the fire about 2 yards from the Circus Pavilion, to the north. The fire spot was about one yard wide. I saw the fire in only one place.—Read over.

17. Ranoji, Barr Naik.

6th March 1897. I was on duty at the Ghanté Bagalu from 6 A. M. till the fire broke out. Two other sepoys were on guard. I saw at about 9-30. A. M. a flame near the dome of the Circus Pavilion, towards the Sunarkhana (north) side. I ran to inform Bakshi Virappaji, and came back and stood at the Chaman Gate. I did not call people in. There was a large crowd at the entrance-gate. They could not get in on account of the fire. The Bakshi was in his house, which is about 3 furlongs from the Palace. That was the only spot where I saw the fire at first.—Read over.

N. B.—This witness points to the same spot, as the other witnesses, on the map.

18. Venkat Naidu, Sepoy.

6th March 1897.

I was on guard at the Ghanté Pahara and a woman and a cooly, at about 9-35. A.M. shouted out that a fire was seen in the Pandal. The woman was in the Kudré Totti. She called out, fire! The cooly came from the corner by the Marriage Mantap. He also called out, fire! The woman sells milk and curds. I can make her out if I see her. I do not know the man. He may be a Palace servant. When I first saw the fire it was between the Kannadi Totti gate and Vola-Bagalu. The cooly came from the Madanvilas Bagalu—not the corner referred to. I then went up to the Circus Pavilion and looked round. The ceiling was burning. The fire did not crawl up from below. There was no fire anywhere else then. I did not call in any one. I stood on the guard. I saw no one enter the Savari Totti. I did not see the Controller.—Read over.

19. Mari, Sepoy.

I was on the Ghanté Pahara. A curds-woman called out, fire! I looked and saw fire in the ceiling between the Circus Pavilion and the Music Gallery. I removed the muskets and placed them near the Bidadi. By this time the flame had extended. I did not see if any people came by the Ané Gate (Elephant Gate). I did not see the Controller then. —Read over.

20. Subba Naik, Halé Paiki Volékar on duty outside the Ané Bagalu.

The Sepoys and others shouted out, fire! On account of the flames I could not go in. I did not see the Controller come out of the Ané Bagalu. I saw him standing at the Chaman Gate when the fire first broke out. It was about 10 A.M. I went round to the Thadike-Bagalu or Chaman Gate, where I saw the Controller. I went there to have a view of the fire as it was too strong at the Main Gate. I thence accompanied the Controller to the Treasury. This was about half an hour after the breaking out of the fire.—Read over.

21. Timma, Volékar on duty at the Ané Bagalu.

I was on duty when the fire broke out. It was about 10 A.M. I myself saw the fire about a yard to the north of the Circus Pavilion. It looked at first like a dark spot, emitting smoke. Seeing it break out into fire, I called out for help. The fire was spreading rapidly. I receded a little. It was only a quarter of an hour after this that outside people began to come. They did not come in as the flames were too strong. They all began to throw up water. I did not see the Controller, or the Durbar Bakshi. I saw Mr. Hardaker bring the Engine. People did not come in then. I did not see the Controller at all in the Savari Totti. I did not see the Dewan there. I and the bearers and my Havildar assisted in removing the palanquins, of which there were 4 or 5. We removed them all out. This we did within about a quarter of an hour. People from outside also helped us in the work of removal. There was one palanquin stuck in the gate, and we were 10 minutes in removing it.—Read over.

22. Havildar Muniya, Volékar.

6th March 1897. I was seated outside the Ané Gate. Sepoy Timma cried out, fire! I ran immediately to the Bahalé Cutcherry to give the news. By the time I returned they were removing the palanquins. Only 2 were removed. Outside people were not going in to the Savari Totti on account of the flames. I do not know if people went in by the Chaman Gate. I did not see the Controller.—Read over.

23. Kalyanamma.

At about 9 A. M. I first saw smoke and flame when I was near the Chavadi (Police Station near the old khazana). I ran shouting to the Bidadi Gate, and came to the Ghanté Bagalu. A large crowd followed me. The Controller who was standing there prevented us from going in, and beat us. I saw the fire near the Marriage Mantap when I was at the gate. The guard at the Bidadi Gate allowed us to pass. We were stopped by the Controller near the ಕಂದೀಲಮನೆ (Kandilmané). I sell curds to the Palace.—Read over.

24. Hutchamma.

I delivered milk in the Bidadi and went out to bring in curds. From the Bidadi I passed out by the Ané Bagalu. On my way back to the Palace, I was passing a little beyond the Police Station when I saw the flame. I shouted and went with curds to the Bidadi. From there I went to the Ané Gate by the outside. I did not go in. I saw the Controller at the Bidadi Gate. There were 4 or 5 men with me. They wanted to go in and put out the fire. The Controller beat them and drove them back. The Controller was on the stairs at the Bidadi Gate—Read over.

25. Jamal Khan, Naik.

I was on duty with Ali Bég at the Zenana Gate on the Sunday morning. My sepoy and the Sunarkhana guard cried out, fire! I looked out and saw a spot in the Pandal on fire to the north of the Circus Pavilion. I at once conveyed the news to my Bakshi; when I returned the fire had extended, and I helped in bringing in water from the pond in the Chaman. The pipe near this door had no water. The Palace servants threw the water over the fire. I did not see the Controller.—Read over.

26. Ali Beg, Seopy.

I was on duty with my Naik at the Zenana Gate. One of the Sunarkhana guard—Sivalal—shouted out, fire! I sent my Naik. I did not myself see the fire at first—Read over.

27. Venkataramana, Volékar.

I was on duty at the Kannadi Totti Gate. It was about 9·30 A. M. I saw the fire in the ceiling to the north of the Circus Pavilion. I did nothing as the fire was overhead. I did not see the Controller.—Read over.

28. Mahomed Khan, Sepoy.

My duty is at the Sillekhana. I heard shouts of fire. The Dewan and the Durbar Bakshi and 2 men came down-stairs

from inside. I saw the fire spreading from the Pandal.—Read over. 6th March 1897.

29. Putyalakki, Betel-leaf Gardener, Dod Holgéri.

I, with 30 or 40 others, came to the Palace to see the tamash, and we were waiting near the pond outside. Meanwhile, I saw a column of smoke go up, when I heard a sepoy shout out the Pandal was on fire. We came to the Ané Bagalu. By that time the Controller, the Dewan's son and a European came from inside and prevented us from going in, saying that we had come to commit theft. We tried to get in by the Chaman Gate. The Controller came round there and drove us back. Some of us were beaten by him. I saw the Controller with my own eyes. I saw the Dewan's son and the European with my own eyes. I went up to the gate but not inside. We then went round by the Bidadi Gate and met Colonel Desaraj Urs. Under his orders we helped in removing things from the Palace.—Read over.

30. Chik Haida, Betel-leaf Gardener, Dod Holgéri.

I came with our people to see the tamash. Volékars and sepoys shouted out that the Pandal was on fire. We were 20 or 30 of us. We wanted to get in to put out the fire, but the Controller who was at the Ané Bagalu prevented us from entering. There was, with the Controller, another stout gentleman. We were then standing in the Kemmànmatti. I did not see any one else with the Controller. I was not allowed to go near enough to see if there was any palanquin at the gate. The Controller came outside, and a sepoy there begged him to let us in, but the Controller refused.—Read over.

31. Putta, Betel-leaf Gardener, Dod Holgéri.

I heard that there was to be Vókali ceremony, and we came to see the tamash. A sepoy came out of the Palace, crying out, fire! We were trying to get in, when the Controller, the Dewan's son and a European gentleman prevented us going in. I am one of those struck by the Controller. He beat with a stick, and I was hurt on the head. I show the wound. A sepoy interceding on our behalf, he too was beaten. We sometimes bring carts for work under the Controller. I saw the palanquins being removed by the bearers. I did not see any one go in when I was there. We then went round towards the Karikal Totti and helped in removing things from the Palace.—Read over.

32. Bade Linga, Betel-leaf Gardener, Dod Holgéri.

(Same story as the last witness). I know the Controller personally. I was told that the other was the Dewan's son.—Read over.

33. Kempa Rama, Betel-leaf Gardener, Dod Holgéri.

A sepoy was taking us into the Palace, saying that there was fire. The Controller and the Dewan's son and a European prevented us from going in. The first two are personally known to me. (The rest is the same story.)—Read over.

34. Javara of the Dod Holgéri.

The Controller and the Dewan's son are personally known to me. (Repeats the same story). When we were obstructed

6th March 1897. at the main gate we went round to the Chaman Gate where the Controller threatened to shoot us and get us three months' imprisonment.—Read over.

35. Devangada Dasi, Mendicant.

It was about 10 A. M. when I came to the Ané Bagalu. I saw the flames inside. The Controller came out from the Palace, driving out a sepoy and beating him for bawling out. The Pariahs and myself tried to get in, but when we saw the sepoy beaten we withdrew. None of the Pariahs were beaten. I do not know the Controller, but the sepoys said that the Controller was coming out to beat them.—Read over.

36. Mr. Krishna Iyer.

8th March 1897. I got to the Palace between half past ten and quarter to eleven. It is not the fact that I, with the Controller, kept people out. I did not see the Controller till two on the Sunday afternoon.—Read over.

37. Venkatramanaiya, Zenana Sheristedar.

I never go to the milk-boiling room on the 3rd storey. There was a bamboo Tatti-Chappar in front of the room during the time of the Sitavilas Sannidhana. I do not go to the terrace on the top storey on the western side. I have not been there during the marriage. Marilingavva is the head maid-servant, but she has no access to the Sannidhana—Read over.

38. Mr. H. Lingaraj Urs, Durbar Bakshi.

(*i*). I was in the Madanvilas Totti with the Dewan, the Controller, the Maramat Bakshi, Sheristedar Venkatramanaiya, Thawker, a jewel merchant, when I got news of the fire. The Dewan and myself immediately ran down to the Savari Totti. I saw the north-east corner dome of the Savari Totti in a blaze. It was 4 or 6 feet in diameter. The fire was confined to the spot when I saw it first. It then spread towards the Kannadi Totti Gate. I called out for help and ran towards the Chaman Gate. Mr. Hardaker and one of his servants brought up an engine in about three minutes. I helped to unfold the hose, half of it was unfolded. In the meantime the Bhuvanésvari (dome) by north-east corner came down. We all ran under the Chaman Gate and stood there. The dome fell on or near the Engine and we could not stand near it. Then I went out into the open court-yard near the gas room for more help. Meanwhile I was told by the Dewan to go and remove Her Highness. I called out to the sepoys for help and then ran to the door outside the Madanvilas and asked the guard for water pots. They had not got any. I then went to the Madanvilas to inform Her Highness, and the Dewan told me to look after the Maharani. Her Highness had already left. So I remained in the Lakshmivilas to remove things. I had first gone to the Organ Room; it was all on fire. So I told some people to rush in at the window of the Armoury and take out things. This was after I had commenced to remove things from the Lakshmivilas. I merely gave the order to remove things from the Armoury and returned to the Lakshmivilas. The Library being on fire no one could get into it to remove things. When I did not find

pots in the Volabagalu near the Madanvilas I did not look for their elsewhere, as that is the only place where they are available on that side. I did not go to the Kemmanmatti to find men when I failed to find them in the Chaman yard. I am not responsible for the putting up of the Pandal and lighting. That is under the Controller and Mr. Hardaker. I did not see if there was any water in the hydrant as Mr. Hardaker was working at it. No vessels were kept in any part of the Palace with water ready in case of fire. I am not responsible for the Zenana rooms on the west and south sides. I believe the two rooms above the Arms Room and Library were unoccupied. They are only accessible from the Zenana side—a staircase leads up to it from the Madanvilas Totti; but it was locked and sealed. The terrace on the 3rd floor which extended round to the east side behind the Sajjé was not open to the Zenana, being shut off on the north by a bare wall and on the south by blocks of rooms. To get to this terrace one went up the Sajjé staircase. There was only one staircase and this was always locked and unlocked at 6 P. M. when the masalchi, gollar and sepoys went to light the lamps above. The object of its being locked up was to secure the privacy of the Zenana parts, the key was kept in charge of Ramakrishnappa, Zenana Sheristedar in the Ambavilas. This was the only way to get to the higher storey. I have no information or theory about the origin of the fire. The vessels referred to as being kept in the Volabagalu were brass and copper, (water and cooking) vessels. Only the Lig ones were there, but no water. The Maharani's personal jewels were in the Lakshmivilas and Messrs. Kantaraj Urs, Lingaraj Urs, and Narainraj Urs, and the Ursu ladies were taking care of them and attending to their removal. I also got my servants, over a 100, to pour water from the Zenana terrace to prevent the fire spreading to the Madanvilas. The cattle are in my charge and in this season milk is brought in after 9 A. M. after being tested by the Sérvégars which takes another half hour. The responsibility for looking after the fire in the Zenana milk-boiling room rests with the Zenana Department. The Lakshmivilas Totti and Madanvilas up to the Karikal Totti, in fact, the whole Zenana quarters were in my charge—to the extent of looking after the articles in there. I tried my best to keep the crowd out, but did not succeed. No maid-servants are under my orders.—Read over. 8th March 1897.

(*ii*). *Re-examined on the* 19*th March* :—

Supplementary Statement.—It did not occur to me the other day to state that when I returned to the Maharani's quarters as directed by the Dewan, I was informed by Mrs. Nanjaraj Urs and Mr. M. Kantaraj Urs' mother that young Baleraj Urs (son of Mr. Nanjaraj Urs) and the Yuvaraj were missing. Accordingly, I went in search of them, first to the Yuvaraja's dressing room, which is close to the Music veranda, and also I went to the Doll-rooms in the Madanvilas and to some other rooms. While I was searching, Mr. Kantaraj Urs met me and informed me that Baleraj Urs might have gone to his (Mr. Kantaraj Urs) house and asked me to send word to keep him there. So I sent word by some man; meanwhile Mr. Kantaraj Urs came and told me that both Baleraj Urs and the Yuvaraja were found. This was just after I went to the Lakshmivilas. Then I went and informed Mrs. Nanjaraj Urs that they were found, and Mr. Kantaraj Urs' mother asked me to help her in

8th March 1897. removing the jewels which were in a big almirah, of which she could not remove the drawer. Accordingly I helped her. That is all I want to say. I have nothing more to add.

I did not make this statement when first examined, because it did not then occur to me. But I do not wish to imply that the opportunity of saying whatever I wished was not given to me. I cannot say how many minutes were occupied in the search for the two boys. I only removed one big box which was close to the Madanvilas door, and took it to the Karikal Totti with the help of some one, and then went to the Music Room gallery and opened the staircase which leads from the Madanvilas to the upper storey, in order to take people up to throw water. I had to break open the lock.—Read over.

39. Mr. H. Nanjundaraj Urs, Vice-President.

(*i*). The water-supply of Mysore is now in the hands of the Municipality. The Kukarhalli water only was being supplied to the Palace on the day of the fire. This was the usual state of things. There are 3 hydrants in the Savari Totti; another outside the Volabagalu. There are 3 taps in the vacant yard close by. There is a fountain in the Kannadi Totti, one tap in the new Salgéri, one in the Soda-water Machine Room, one hydrant in front of the Ané Bagalu, now broken, another in the same court-yard near a big lamp post, one tap in the Electric Machine Room, one hydrant in Bidadi outside, one tap in the Bidadi, another hydrant close to the entrance to the Chandrasale Totti, one tap in the new Zenana quarters, and one in the Chaman near the Karikal Totti. These are not under me. I came to the Bidadi door. People were crying for water. I did not observe at the time whether there was any water from the hydrants. I went to my office for a supply of hose and returned to the Palace and noticed water flowing from the front hydrant at a quarter to eleven. The hydrant was broken. I observed the taps working in the Bidadi. This was before I went to my office. There is a valve on the north side of the Palace wall which controls the three hydrants inside the Savari Totti. The hydrants in the Kemmanmatti are supplied by a main running from the east side of the Kemmanmatti. In consultation with the Sanitary Engineer it had been arranged to supply the Kaveri water to the high level portion, and the Kukarhalli water to the low level portion, of the City. On account of the fire I turned on the Kaveri water and got the Balagola Engines worked all day. The keys of all the hydrants in the Palace are with Mr. Hardaker.—Read over.

(*ii*). *Re-examined on the 9th March*:—

Gurukar Basavalingaiya has a key for the Jaganmohan. Mr. Shama Rao of the Stables, Paparam in charge of the Electric Room, two Turnkeys (Virappa and Malla) and the Water Inspector under my orders have also got the keys. They are all universal keys. They were given to them as they have to open the valves to get water. Petty repairs in the Palace water-system are done by the Palace people themselves. Bigger repairs are done by the Municipality on requisition. The keys were not supplied by the Municipality. They can be made here. The water-supply on Sundays is always the same as on other days. We never close the pipes in Mysore for cleaning purposes. If ever

we have any thing to do with the pipes, we give notice to the public.—Read over. 8th March 1897.

40. Virabhadra.

I am the Turnkey. On the day after the procession, *i. e.*, the 25th, my Inspector Annadore came and cleaned the valve in front of Dinachandraiya's house. Water was left flowing. I did not go to the valve again before the fire. I keep the key of it. The Mali, Paparamappa and Mr. Hardaker have also duplicates of the same. They are also kept in the Jagammohan and Summer Palaces. I know nothing about a leakage of a hydrant in the Savari Totti.—Read over.

41. Bettaiya, Kandilvala.

On the Saturday night at 5-30 Venkataiya lighted the one light on the Sajjé Gallery. I was present on the following Sunday morning and saw that the light had blown out. I saw from the Namtirtha Totti. We generally put only enough of oil to burn till 2 or 3 A. M. Every time we go there a gollar and a sepoy go with us. This place is locked and sealed. The gollar knows where the key is kept. It is his duty to lock and seal it. We do not go there in the mornings. On the Sunday morning about 6, I myself saw from the Nagár Khana that light had gone. The lamp was always lighted below the Kalasa and kerosine-oil was used. The oil is sufficient to keep the lamp burning till 2 or 3 in the morning.—Read over.

42 Viraiya, Gollar.

The man from the Kandilmané comes at 6 in the evening. I and the Rachévar Havildar accompany him. We open the Sajjé door and break the seal. We all three go up to the lamp which is lighted by the Kandil-man. We then come back together. The gollaiya locks and seals. I was the gollaiya on duty on the Saturday evening. We have no occasion to go there in the morning, as the lamp keeps burning only till 2 or 3 A. M. and then goes out. There is no other way to the lamp. The wall all round the terrace is a man's hight. There is a door on north-east corner but kept locked. The key is with the guard at the Madanvilas. It has not been opened within the last 4 or 5 months. We gollars have to break open the seal of the door whenever required.—Read over.

43. Dasi, Rachévar Havildar.

I had been to the Sajjé lamp on the Saturday evening at about 5·30 P. M. with Venkataiya and Viranna. We unlocked the door after breaking open the seal, and after lighting, we went back the same way. I saw with my own eyes that the door was locked and sealed again. I saw the lamp again the next morning. It was out.—Read over.

44. Chendrasekharaiya, Bidadi Clerk.

On the Sunday morning there was a little water till 8-30 A. M., when it ceased to flow from the tap inside the Bidadi. There was no water till half past 2 in the afternoon. A similar thing occurred sometimes but not necessarily on every Sunday.—Read over.

45. Mali Voba.

(*i*). The tap in the garden near Karikal Totti was opened at 6 on the Sunday morning. There was water as usual. The tap was stopped on the alarm of fire. It is a big tap and I went to help in putting out the fire.—Read over.

(*ii*). *Re-examined on the 9th March :—*

I have a key to fit the valve in the garden of the Karikal Totti. I have never used it for the valve near the Salgéri. I have never given the key to any one before yesterday. It is kept in the Karikal Totti guard.—Read over.

46. Shamlal.

8th March 1897. I am serving under Mr. Hardaker. On the Sunday morning there was no water in the 2 hydrants in the Savari Totti. I then opened the hydrant in front of the gate. There was a little water but not enough to fill the hose. I then went to another hydrant near the Turvekere Urs' house, but did not open it as people said that water would not rise to it. The hydrant in front of the main gate in the Kemmanmatti was broken before I went there. I then tried the hydrant in front of the Bidadi. There was a little water only enough to make a flow up to the door steps. I did not go to see the hydrant which is near the Theatre entrance. I did not see outside people in the Savari Totti when the Pandal fell in.—Read over.

47. Gangaiya, Waterman.

On the Sunday morning there was a little water in the tap in the Bidadi, but the supply ceased when it was turned off to quench the fire.—Read over.

48. The Dewan.

About 9-30 A. M. a man came to Madanvilas Totti where I was and gave the alarm of fire. I proceeded to the veranda on the west side of the open court and saw a circular patch of fire 5 feet in diameter to the north of Circus Pavilion, perhaps 2 feet away. The ceiling cloth was burning, not the decorations below. I think I told the Controller to go and see about putting it out; they all went in different directions. I did not descend into the Savari Totti. I saw an engine dragged out by the Chaman gate. I did not observe the Controller keeping people out, nor did I see people at the gate; that must have been later. No specific orders were given for special measures to be taken. I went along the Music Hall veranda to my private dressing room, as there were pots full of water there and on my return along the veranda, smoke and flame were already breaking in. The fire now spread with immense rapidity. I cannot say whether water came from the hydrant or not; possibly a small jet may have issued from the hose. I told Thawker and the Zenana Sheristedar to look after the jewels. I did not order the Controller to do this, but to look to the fire; I saw him after the Jewel-room was broken open. I may have ordered the Durbar Bakshi to assist in the removal of women and children when I met him between the Madanvilas and Karikal Totti. It is my opinion that immediately after the fire broke out, all the superior officers should have directed their first attention to the fire. I told the Controller at a

subsequent stage when I met him near the Jewel-room to go round to the Treasury; the Durbar Bakshi was by this time guarding the line between the Savari Totti and the Zenana quarters from Madanvilas to Kannadi Totti.—Read over.

49. Mr. Muddaraj Urs, Bidadi Bakshi.

9th March 1897.

I have no personal knowledge of any ladies in the Sannidhana bathing on the Sunday. I cannot positively say that no Zenana ladies bathe on Sundays. The tap water from the Salgéri side does not rise during the day in the Maharaja's bath-room attached to the Madanvilas.—Read over.

50. Puttu Setti, Waterman.

I supplied water for the hot bath of the 1st and 2nd Princesses. The water was heated in the Bidadi and sent inside. On the Saturday night, we had a sufficient supply of water which was heated on the Sunday morning. The hot water I gave over to Madavva and a woman from Goruru, whose name I do not know.—Read over.

51. Gurupadaiya,

of the Khás Nirmané.

His Highness the Maharaja had his usual bath on the Sunday morning in the bath-room attached to the Madanvilas. There was no water in the bath-room tap. It had to be brought from the Bidadi.—Read over.

52. Chamakka.

On the day of the fire Kempadevakka and myself attended to the bathing of the 2nd Princess. After the bath was over, Mr. Kantaraj Urs' mother dried the Princess' hair. Sidavva and Subavva were the servants who assisted in the bathing. The hot water was got ready by 7-30 in the Sunday morning.—Read over.

53. Somappa,

Dressing boy of Mr. Dalavayi Devaraj Urs.

The flow of water in the two taps in the house of my employer was small at 6 A. M. on the Sunday when I first opened them. It continued like that till 11 A. M. when the supply began to increase. I left for my own house after that.—Read over.

54. Ashraf Meeah, Trader.

(*Note.*—A part of the petition* to the Committee is read over to the witness). I did not myself see the Dewan order the people to be kept out. I did myself see the Controller Mr. Sitaram Rao outside the Elephant Gate with Sishai, Head Constable, City Police. The Controller, I heard, ordering to keep the people back as they had come to loot. This was about 9-30 A.M. My shop is near the Jaganmohan Mahal and I went to the Palace seeing the smoke. I did not see Mr. Nanjaraj Urs then. I did not see the police or the sepoys loading, but they were saying "we will shoot if you attempt to enter." The Holérs came along with me but they had brought nothing in their hands. Nawab Meer Aminuddin also was with us. I do not know whether at that time the Pandal inside had fallen or not. It was about 9-30 A. M. when

*Complaining of being prevented from entering the Palace when the fire first broke out.

I went to the Palace. I signed the petition on account of the facts which I had seen and others signed for what they saw. We all sat and wrote together. My moonshi wrote the petition.—Read over.

55. Siddavva,
Zenana service.

9th March 1897. The 3rd Princess had an oil bath on the Sunday morning. At 8-30 A. M. we dried the lady's hair but used no incense in the process as it was too hot. The usual process is to heat a cloth at a pot of fire in which incense is thrown and then to apply the cloth to the hair. The fire for the purpose is brought from the Bidadi and the fire is left there after the process is over. We use wood charcoal. There is a hazára (open hall) attached to the Vanivilas to the south of the Krishnavilas on the 1st floor. It was there that the hair was dried.—Read over.

56. Nanjamma, of the Zenana.

The hair of the 3rd Princess was dried after an oil bath in the Hos Totti in front of Lakshmivilas on the Sunday morning. No fire or incense was used in the drying. It was her pleasure not to have it. It was about 8 in the morning.—Read over.

57. Naganna, Rice Merchant.

10th March 1897. I went by the Karikal Totti to the Bidadi Gate about 9 or 9-30 A. M. on the Sunday. The Controller was there and drove me and several others away. My shop is near the Jaganmohan Palace. I saw the smoke and came to the Palace but we could not get in to help in quenching the fire owing to the said obstruction. I did not read the petition. I cannot say who brought the petition to me. I signed it on hearing that the petition was about our being prevented from entering the Palace to put out the fire.—Read over.

58. Pommanna, Rice Merchant.

I and several others came to the Bidadi Gate to get in to quench the fire. But the Controller prevented us from entering. We then went round to the Ané Bagalu. There also we were prevented by the sepoys from going in. I saw the Controller with my own eyes both at the Bidadi gate and at the Ané Bagalu. It was then 9 or 9-30 A. M. We were driven away from both the gates. The Controller went from the Bidadi Gate to the Ané Bagulu and there also prevented us going in. My shop is near the Jaganmohan. I have signed the petition but did not get it read before doing so.—Read over.

59. Janardhana Murti, Gumasta of Honnagiriyappa, Merchant.

I have signed the petition. I went to the Elephant Gate with several others. (The rest of the witness' statment is all hearsay.)—Read over.

60. Honnagiriyappa, Merchant.

On the morning of the fire I and several others went to the Ané Bagalu where we were turned out and prevented from entering by the Savars and the Police.—Read over.

61. Chikka Timmappa, Rice Merchant.

My shop is near the Market. Seeing the smoke we went to the Palace in a crowd and the Controller prevented us from entering by the Ané Gate, to put out the fire. He went on beating the people. He said he had orders from the Dewan to shoot any one attempting to enter the Palace. I have signed the petition.—Read over. 10th March 1897.

62. Linga Setti, Oil-monger, Rice Merchant.

I have signed the petition. In Ashraf Meeah's shop there was a meeting which I attended and the petition was adopted. Seeing the smoke I went to the Ané Gate with several others. There I saw the Controller. He beat and prevented us from entering to quench the fire. It was 9 or 9-30 A. M. My shop is in the Market. The Pandal had fallen when I saw.—Read over.

63. Magadi Krishna Setti.

I keep a rice shop. Seeing the smoke I and several others hastened to the Ané Bagalu. I saw the Dewan and the Controller standing there. I saw the Pandal on fire. The Dewan and the Controller prevented us from going in to put out the fire. I only heard this from the crowd there but did not see it with my own eyes. I have signed the petition.—Read over.

Note.—Kunchigar Kamaiya, Puttaiya, Kenchaiya, Ramanna, Nilaiya and Thotoji Rao called up in a batch. They admitted having signed the petition.

64. Kamaiya.

On the morning of the fire, we hastened to the Bidadi Gate where we were beaten by the Sepoys and the Volékars and prevented from going in to put out the fire. We were more than a thousand in number.—Read over.

65. Puttaiya.

At the Elephant Gate I saw the Controller who threatened to shoot us if we attempted to get in.—Read over.

66. Ramanna.

I saw the Dewan also at the Elephant Gate. He was saying that he would shoot us if we tried to get in.—Read over.

67. Nilaiya.

I saw the Dewan and the Controller seated on chairs at the Elephant Gate at about 10 A. M.—Read over.

68. Thotoji Rao.

I did not see the Controller keeping people out.—Read over.

69. Kenchaiya.

(Same as the last witness.)

70. Chanraju, Rachévar on guard at the Lakshmi-vilas.

10th March 1897. The key of the door on the Sajjé upstairs leading to the Hosadivan Khane is secured in a box which is kept in our custody. I have seen the key. We see it everytime the guard is relieved. The door was not opened for the last 3 or 4 months. It was opened previous to that when some repairs had to be effected. I saw the key the day before fire. I was on duty on the day of the fire from 9 A. M. when I examined the key and found it all right in a bunch with several other keys. Box and keys now burnt.—Read over.

71. Venkatramana, Gollar of the Lakshmi-vilas Gate.

I had the key of the door above the Armoury leading to the Sajjé. The key was in the custody of our guard. I had seen the key about a month ago.—Read over.

H. RAMANUJAIENGAR,
Secretary.

Appendix V.

DIARY OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE THE PALACE FIRE.

March 1897.

4TH THURSDAY, ... 11-30 A.M. TO 4-30 P.M.	Met at the Karikal Totti in the Palace. Preliminaries arranged.
	Two witness examined.
5TH FRIDAY, ... 11 A.M. TO 5 P.M.	Fourteen fresh witnesses examined. No. 2 re examined. Wrote to the Controller calling for plans of the Palace.
6TH SATURDAY, ... 11 A. M. TO 5 P. M.	Nineteen fresh witnesses examined. Nos. 1 and 15 re-examined.
	The Inspector General of Police addressed with a view to secure Police co-operation in the investigation. His reply received.
8TH MONDAY, ... 11 A. M. TO 5 P. M.	Thirteen fresh witnesses examined. Nos. 2, 5, 9 and 12 re-examined.
9TH TUESDAY, ... 11 A. M. TO 5 P. M.	Committee adjourned to make a personal inspection of the valves and taps within the Palace precincts.
	Eight fresh witnesses examined. Nos. 1, 2, 39 and 45 re-examined.
	Urgent reminder sent to the Controller for the plans. His reply received.
	Read petition addressed to the President of the Committee by some of the residents of Mysore, complaining of being kept out of the Palace when the fire first broke out. The Police Superintendent requested to produce the petitioners for examination tomorrow.
	Evidence already taken partly discussed.
10TH WEDNESDAY, ... 11 A. M. TO 5 P. M.	The President informed the Committee that on the previous evening the Durbar Bakshi had stated to him that there was a part of the account of his action on the day of the fire which he had not been given an opportunity of stating, *i. e.*, that on returning to the Lakshmivilas the Yuvaraj and the son of Nanjaraj Urs were missing, that he spent time in finding them, that on his return to the fire he found that it had spread to the Madanvilas, and that he stationed himself there and took means to put it out. The Committee record their protest against Mr. Lingaraj Urs' statement that opportunity was not given him to relate the account above. The record of his evidence shows that he was asked in detail about his action and was further invited to state anything he wished to state, and the Committee fails to understand how it was possible for him to have omitted so important a fact as that the Yuvaraj was missing and that he spent time in searching for him.
	Fifteen fresh witnesses examined.
	Urgent memo sent to the Controller for the plans.
	Discussion of the evidence concluded and the lines on which the Committee's Report should be drawn settled.